

Kissinger: a heart operation

Dr Henry Kissinger, aged 58, the former American Secretary of State, is to undergo a triple by-pass heart operation today. A spokesman for Dr Kissinger said he was in good health and spirits, but that routine tests had shown the delicate surgical procedure was necessary. Dr Kissinger was taken to hospital last week after complaining of pains in the shoulder and arm.

Lords back shop hours Bill

The House of Lords gave an unopposed second reading to Lady Trumpington's Bill to allow shopkeepers to trade when they like, including Sundays. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, had earlier told MPs that the Government was neutral, neither opposing the Bill nor planning to introduce its own legislation. Parliament, page 4

Reagan plans for new nerve gas

President Reagan has formally told Congress that he wishes to resume the development of chemical weapons, including the manufacture of a new nerve gas. He reaffirmed United States policy against using them first. Page 5

Manila kidnap victim freed

Tommy Manotoc, the Filipino spokesman who was kidnapped more than a month ago, has reappeared in Manila. He said a press conference of a rescue raid by government troops on the guerrilla camp where he was held. Page 6

New federalism promoted

President Reagan, on a tour of the Middle West, defended his budget proposals and promoted his concept of "new federalism", under which 43 federal programmes would be returned to the states. Page 7

Homes sales

The Court of Appeal ruled that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, was justified in taking over the sale of Norwich council houses and the council's appeal was dismissed. Page 4

Law Report, page 8

Borrowing up

The Government is on course to meet its borrowing targets, latest figures suggest. But efforts to control money supply have been hit by a jump of £1,500m in private borrowing. Page 13

Saunders quits

Ron Saunders resigned as manager of Aston Villa after disagreeing with his board about strengthening the team. Results this season have been disappointing after last year's championship. Page 18

Haig attacks suppression of freedom in Poland

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid, Feb 9

Pope champions Solidarity rights

The Pope said that Solidarity's problems were not just a Polish affair "but the affair of the whole world of work". He told European trade unionists that the movement had been given legal authority. The restoration of effective trade union rights for working men . . . constitutes the only way out . . .", he said

Page 6

scheduled this morning after the Christmas recess.

Mr Haig, speaking to reporters after his speech, while the conference was still in progress, indicated the United States would go on speaking about Poland "for as long as necessary out of respect for the European security process".

The American delegation was resolved when Belgium on behalf of the Western and neutral nations formally protested against the chairman's "unprecedented" interpretation of the Madrid conference rules but agreed to let him close today's plenary session.

M Cheysson and the other 13 speakers listed to address the conference today will now speak on Friday with Lord Carrington who is joining the conference.

Mr Haig maintained that he was following a unanimous agreement made before the conference adjourned to restrict today's meeting to a plenary morning session.

During his speech before the procedural wrangle began, Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, said that Poland's military leadership, "acting under the instigation and coercion of the Soviet Union", was suppressing the "most fundamental freedoms" of the Polish people.

We know very well that they have violated the Helsinki Final Act [the legal document which emerged from the original meeting of the European Security Conference].

The deputy Polish Foreign Minister left the chair while Mr Haig continued speaking, going to join his national delegation but having the deputy leader of the Polish group take the chair instead. So far they have been no walk-over.

The Polish delegation arrived at an Monday together with the speakers' list.

If the Polish regime lifted

martial law, sought reconciliation and a resumption of the reform process and released those it had imprisoned, the United States, Mr Haig promised, "would be among the first to insist we return to the job of moving the Helsinki process forward in both human rights and detente".

In the meantime, "Mr Haig went on, "business as usual in Madrid would simply confirm the massive violation of the Helsinki Act now occurring in Poland".

Mr Haig criticized the procedural wrangle, saying it only demonstrated once again the Communist countries' disregard for the Helsinki process.

Polish sentence, back page 6

Turning East, page 6

Laker wants to launch a 'people's airline'

Sir Freddie Laker said last night that he planned to set up a new "people's airline", with public participation.

In a statement to the Press Association he said: "I avoid specifying the exact result of the enormous public support. I am actively exploring a new airline project and the future plans include public participation in the 'people's airline'.

"I am deeply grateful for this support and to the organizers of 'Sir Freddie's Friendly' and others."

"I do not know as yet the amount of support which any new venture would receive because of that I would ask that no further contribution be sent in for the time being."

Aviation analysts believe that Sir Freddie's new plans would entail setting up a charter airline, possibly leasing aircraft.

A cautious statement from the Civil Aviation Authority said: "We would have to examine his proposals very carefully. He would have to come to us in any case. If he starts a new airline, he would have to prove to us his financial viability and his fitness to operate an airline. His whole case will be treated just like another".

Meanwhile Mr Bill Mackay, 44, a lawyer appointed to Laker Airways, was considering offers for the company's two package holiday subsidiaries.

She described herself as a Freddie Laker fan, and said that she understood there was a reasonable possibility that the suspension could be ended in the right circumstances allowing Laker Airways to be sold in its entirety.

A total takeover is now only a remote possibility after the collapse of the bid by Orion Royal Bank. Laker also has a licence to operate scheduled services between Britain and Zurich.

Lifting of the suspension of the licences would take place only if bodies such as the Civil Aviation Authority judged that a Laker Airways buyer would be able to continue the airline operations efficiently.

Cash and confusion, page 2

TUC study swings towards the EEC

By Paul Routledge,
Labour Editor

Trade union leaders who want to take Britain out of the European Economic Community will today receive a confidential report that argues against precipitate withdrawal.

The TUC Economic Committee is being asked to authorize an extended study of the benefits and drawbacks of community membership on the basis of an investigation, that refuses to back the left's policy of separation from Europe.

Mr Tony Benn, chairman of the TUC's Economic Committee, instructed the general council to campaign for withdrawal from the EEC, but the draft policy document before union leaders this morning argues that food prices might even be cheaper through the much-denigrated common agricultural policy.

"The disparity between community prices and world prices is not as great as it once was, and there would be substantial difficulties in returning to the isolation whereby the United Kingdom enjoyed relatively cheap supplies of food from the Commonwealth", the document says.

The policy paper, prepared by Congress House staff, also says that there has been a substantial increase in imports from EEC countries since Britain went into Europe.

However, account has also to be taken of increased United Kingdom exports to the EEC, not all of which can be explained by North Sea oil.

The whole argument is against any action of precipitate withdrawal, and on trade issues argues that Britain outside Europe would face tariff barriers on exports. "It would obviously be wrong to adopt a policy which would leave the UK's manufacturing industry in a more exposed position than it is at the moment", the document states.

Turning to economic strategy, Congress House experts argue that development aid schemes have supported industry in Britain, and some regional policy initiatives taken in Brussels have helped Britain.

Mr Haig, speaking to reporters after his speech, while the conference was still in progress, indicated the United States would go on speaking about Poland "for as long as necessary out of respect for the European security process".

"The general view of this war against the Polish people are none other than those of the Polish regime itself, acting under the instigation and coercion of the Soviet Union. We would be threatening the future peace of Europe if we ignored this dramatic attack on international principles."

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Polish sentence, back page 6

Turning East, page 6



Mr Roland Davies (top, centre) being escorted along platform 1 at St Marks Station, Liverpool, by railway staff members yesterday and (below) his train—the only BR passenger train running opposite Liverpool.



Aslef's lone driver rides into the sunset

By Arthur Ossman

Mr Roland Davies, aged 63, the only Aslef man to go to work yesterday, standing on board his train, which had been at St Marks Station, Liverpool, since 1979, and the end of his 20-year career as a driver.

He is to retire in two weeks' time and clearly felt that he was beyond the usual working age.

He has been a lone driver for 18 years.

At times as he travelled, he

had the choice in a gesture of defiance to Mr Raymond Buckton and the committee of inquiry into the train drivers' dispute, to take a seat in the driver's cab at 5 am to 2 pm shift that he had always been a lone.

He is to retire in two weeks' time and clearly felt that he was beyond the usual working age.

He has the stamp of bloody

madness on his face, his

eyes red, his hands

shaking, his voice

hoarse, his hands

NEWS IN
SUMMARYRubik takes
a 'fiendish'
Revenge

Fresh from a tortuous legal battle in the High Court, the team that introduced the world to the Rubik Cube yesterday prepared to launch an even bigger and more versatile successor, known as Rubik's Revenge (David Nicholson-Lord, writes).

The Revenge will have 96 squares to be wrenched into tonal alignment, compared with the cube's 54.

For the mathematically inclined, that means 362 octillion possible variations, against the cube's 43 billion billion. It is described variously as "fiendish" and guaranteed to send seasoned cubists "one step closer to insanity".

Rubik's Revenge was displayed for the first time in Britain at the Earls Court toy fair in London last week as its producers and distributors were nearing the end of a copyright dispute over its predecessor. World sales of the Rubik Cube are now estimated at 40 million.

The cube, devised by Dr Erno Rubik, is produced by Politoys, the Hungarian state co-operative, and marketed in Britain at £4.95 by the Ideal Toy Company. In a complicated 90-minute judgment in the High Court Mr Justice Dillon ruled that rival cubes imported from Taiwan breached the Hungarian copyright, but found against ideal on its claim for passing off.

The Romans on tour in Britain

Howard Brenton, author of the controversial play *The Romans in Britain*, is to read the play as a narrative on a four-week national tour beginning on February 15. (Our Arts Correspondent writes).

He wants to emphasize by the tour that the play is not "illegal" because of the forthcoming indecency action by Mrs Mary Whitehouse against Mr Michael Bogdanov, the director of the play at the National Theatre.

Thatcher defends lead policy

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday defended the Government's record on the reduction of lead in petrol and said lead-free petrol could be introduced only in the long term (Philip Webster, Political Reporter, writes).

She said in the Commons that the decision to cut the maximum level of lead to 0.15 gms a litre by 1985 closely reflected the views of Sir Henry Yellowles, the Government's Chief Medical Officer of Health. Parliamentary report, page 4 Letters, page 11

Panel to review custody laws

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, told a delegation of Conservative and Labour MPs yesterday that a working party of judges, registrars and probation and court welfare officers would be appointed to consider how better to safeguard the interests of children of divorcing parents (our Political Staff writer).

The deputation said changes were needed to improve the fragmented manner in deciding custody and other issues.

Labour move on arms

A move to extend the Labour Party's disarmament commitment from nuclear to chemical weapons was made by members of the party's national executive yesterday. Mr Frank Almack MP for Saltford, East, said the international committee had passed a formal resolution deplored the American decision to produce a new range of chemical weapons.

Leading article, page 11

Oldfield for Bradford

Mr George Oldfield, the man who led the bid for the Yorkshire Ripper, is taking charge of Bradford, the area where Peter Sutcliffe, the 13 times killer lived, as Assistant Chief Constable, Western Division, of West Yorkshire.

Candidate selected

Mr Bryan Gould, former Labour MP for Southampton Test, has been selected to fight the Barking, Dagenham, constituency in east London for the party at the next general election. He succeeds Mr John Parker who is to retire at the next election.

Two months later she went blind

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Inquiry may hold separate talks with train drivers

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The committee of inquiry into the rail dispute, which has been boycotted by the train drivers' union, began taking evidence yesterday and the unions appearing before it hope that a report will be ready by the end of the week.

The hearing started as the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) decided to repeat strikes next week with stoppages on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Services are expected to be severely disrupted today and there is another 24-hour strike tomorrow.

Lord McCarthy, the inquiry chairman yesterday heard submissions from British Rail, the National Union of Railwaysmen and the white-collar Transport Salaried Staffs' Association. The hearings have been adjourned until this afternoon, when the committee's examination of the evidence should be completed.

All three rail unions are due at the House of Commons this morning to give evidence in private to the select committee on transport, which is investigating BR's electrification plans and productivity in the industry.

In spite of Aslef's boycott Lord McCarthy is understood to be keen to find a way of persuading the union to attend. BR and the other unions would resist any plan to hold a separate session of the committee for Aslef, but it is thought that Lord McCarthy has not entirely ruled out that possibility.

Aslef's executive took less than an hour to decide to

repeat the current pattern of strikes next week, which are costing £5m each weekday. Mr Raymond Buckton, Aslef general secretary, said that the introduction of flexible rostering, which is at the heart of the dispute over a 3 per cent pay increase, would save the board only £2.25m a year, although it would mean 4,000 lost footplate jobs.

The Aslef stance on rostering, to allow for the introduction of the 39-hour week, would cost an extra £5 for footplate staff and would involve the creation of 500 new jobs, he said.

Mr Thomas Jenkins, general secretary of the TSSA, said in his evidence to the inquiry that there were "faults that can be apportioned to different parties" and he believed that BR had broken last August's understanding on pay by refusing to pay to Aslef members a 3 per cent increase due from the beginning of January.

He thought the board should have paid the increase and then proceeded through normal negotiating machinery on the productivity aspects, which the board felt had not been honoured.

Mr Sidney Weisbell, general secretary of the NUR, told the committee his union believed that there had been two understandings reached last August on pay and productivity, which were completely separate. However, he also believed that Aslef had not honoured productivity commitments made at that time.

Let me reiterate once more that our agreement on pay was only possible because the trade unions, all of them, freely committed themselves to meaningful progress on productivity, he said.

The resolution of this dispute is vital to the future of British railways. If it is resolved positively it can help us to a better future, a future where we can say with confidence that we are prepared to ensure that coal is usually taken by rail is not moved by road.

Mixed reaction to 'Times' job cuts

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The main craft print union stepped into the crisis at Times Newspapers yesterday with an appeal to both sides in the company to work together to ensure that it had a "healthy, prosperous and viable future".

The unexpectedly conciliatory statement by Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, came 24 hours after the warning by Mr Rupert Murdoch, company chairman, that *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* would be closed unless agreement on 600 redundancies was reached within days.

Mr Wade said that he did not accept the "ultimatum" from Mr Murdoch but added that the union had no alternative but to join management in discussions on a survival plan for the company. "It is clear that not only our members' jobs at Times Newspapers are at risk but also in other parts of News International", he said.

Mr Wade believed the strategy needed by Times Newspapers was comparable with that agreed between Mr Robert Maxwell and unions for a better future.

In contrast, Mr Owen O'Brien, general secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, whose members must provide the largest number of redundancies, continued yesterday to criticize management's approach.

Separate terms will apply to journalists. The management, which is understood to be seeking between 360 and 390 cuts in clerical staff, wants a reduction in TNL editorial staff of about 35.

Confusion and acrimony continued to surround the funds pouring in yesterday to try to save Sir Freddie's operations.

Mr Mackey repeated his warning to the public not to send money. But before Sir Freddie's request last night, the fund raisers and Laker staff were urging the public to do so, while those in banking and airline circles remained sceptical that the would be of any use.

Lloyd's Bank stepped in to hold the funds being raised by the Sussex hotel owner, Mrs Kay Hardy, and Mr Colin

NEWHAVEN FERRY REPRIEVED

Sealink has reprieved its Newhaven ferry service between Newhaven and Dieppe. The ferry's crew yesterday voted to end its five-week sit-in aimed at saving the service.

The Liberals will fight the two best seats on behalf of the alliance—Chelmsford, which they regard as their sixth best prospect in the country, and the new Humberside seat of Brigg and Cleethorpes, seen as the eighth most winnable seat.

Yesterday's meeting held to review progress after the refit, expected to take three or four weeks, before re-entering service. A date for the resumption of the service, using French ships initially, will be announced soon.

Negotiations over the service were reopened after action by members of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association halted all British Sealink ferries for six days.

Businessmen displeased

Travellers' tales cast shadow on BA

By Michael Bally, Transport Correspondent

How inefficient is British Airways, the state leviathan that stays afloat after losing £140m last year while Laker founders? Highly so, to judge by two recent statistics. It is the businesswoman's least popular airline, according to a poll carried out by the magazine *Business Traveller*; and with 52,000 staff (since cut) it headed the International Air Transport Association (IATA) table of biggest employers among world airlines last year.

Feedback to *The Times* from dissatisfied customers is also fairly bad. Here is a small selection: From a businesswoman in Bangkok: "I shall make absolutely sure that not only I, but everyone in my firm, never flies BA again." Her furious note, on, with BA's failure to accommodate him and his family on the flight to Bangkok, although the reservations had been confirmed only a few hours earlier, but also with the un sympathetic attitude of BA staff. "They almost made me feel it was my fault", he said.

On punctuality, BA boasts of a remarkable improvement to 94 per cent of short haul and 69 per cent of long haul flights.

Feedback to *The Times* from a businessman returning to the UK from a recent flight from Amman there were 12 overbooked, causing great distress to passengers. The stewardess told me it happened all the time. She could not take it any more and was applying for voluntary redundancy.

Another colleague at *The Times*: "I tend to keep away from British Airways. The stewardesses are like starry schoolgirls who look down their nose at you. They are far too busy talking to each other to attend to you."

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Computing a cure for smokers

Pope sends private greeting to the Queen

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, has passed to the Queen a private note from the Pope containing a "very warm message of greeting" in connexion with his visit to Britain at the end of May. The Cardinal returned from a brief visit to Rome last weekend.

The Pope, Cardinal Hume said, was looking forward to his visit. He has agreed to the central proposals for his itinerary drawn up by the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales.

The central theme will be the sacraments, of which there are seven in the Roman Catholic Church. To the extent that it is practically possible, the Pope will celebrate each of the seven sacraments, one of which will feature as a keynote in each of his public appearances.

Thus the service in Westminster Cathedral the anointing of the sick, that at Coventry airport confirmation, and so on.

In making his visit to Rome and in issuing a statement about it today, it is understood that Cardinal Hume is responding to the impression so far given that the main impact of the visit is likely to be a series of spectacular public celebrations, accompanied by the sale of thousands of souvenirs to pay for it all.

He is concerned to establish that the spiritual and religious nature of the visit is the central point.

It is important that Catholics should not lose sight of the deeper significance of the Pope's journey, the Cardinal says. "He comes to confirm the faith of his brethren and to feed the lambs and the sheep who make up the flock. The Pope will come as pastor and bishop on a spiritual mission. The chosen symbol of the spiritual mission is the theme of the sacraments, he adds.

The second summons alleges that Mr Robert Wilson, who died a month later, was permitted to enter an enclosure separated from Zeya's by a fence of inadequate design and height.

The trial will be held at Maidstone Crown Court.

Zoo faces trial over killer tiger

Howlett's and Port Lympne Estates is to face trial over the deaths of two keepers savaged by Zeya, a Siberian tiger, at Mr John Aspinall's zoo near Canterbury, Kent, in 1980.

Canterbury magistrates were told yesterday that the first prosecution related to the death of Mr Brian Stocks, head tiger keeper at Howlett's Zoo Park, who died in hospital on August 21, 1980. The company is accused of permitting him to enter Zeya's enclosure alone when she was there.

The second summons alleges that Mr Robert Wilson, who died a month later, was permitted to enter an enclosure separated from Zeya's by a fence of inadequate design and height.

The trial will be held at Maidstone Crown Court.

Holiday in sun for Princess

The Prince and Princess of Wales's holiday next week in Eleuthera, an island in the Bahamas, is to give them a rest in the sunshine, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. The holiday, from February 16 to 26, comes after the Princess's recent stay in Scotland.

Part of the island belongs to the Prince's cousins, Lady Mountbatten of Burma and Lord Brabourne. The Princess is expecting her first child in June.

Peace camp is broken up

A peace camp inside the entrance of the United States Air Force base at Fairford, Gloucestershire, was broken up by Ministry of Defence police yesterday.

About fifteen anti-nuclear protesters from the west country who had been living at the camp since last Saturday, were carried off the ministry ground by 30 policemen. Their caravans and tents were removed and the ground was fenced off. A notice giving warning that the area was restricted was erected.

Poisoner of husband jailed for a year

Judith Herbert, aged 27, a housewife, who took a schoolboy aged 14 as her lover and then poisoned her husband, was jailed for 12 months at Winchester Crown Court on Monday. She was cleared of attempting to murder her husband, Mr Patrick Herbert, aged 54, but convicted of administering poison so as to endanger life. She denied both charges.

Roman remains

Workmen digging foundations for a factory extension at Ancaster, Lincolnshire, have uncovered a 2,000 year old burial ground, believed to be of Roman origin. Ancaster was built on the site of the Roman town, Causentum, where limestone was quarried.

BL wins extra fleet sales.

BL Cars' overall share of the car market grew by 1% in 1981. At a time when most other manufacturers lost ground.

But just as significant was BL Cars' progress in the highly competitive fleet market, where the company's share grew by 3%.

Over 200 important companies bought more BL Cars than ever before, giving a £70 million boost to the business.

Fleet sales became more important every year, so

Prisoner and officers hurt in jail clash

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A prisoner and three prison officers were injured at Brixton prison south London, after officers had forced their way into two barricaded cells when moving prisoners to overcome an accommodation crisis, it was disclosed yesterday.

The clash on January 25, came to light as the Government disclosed that cells at London courts and at a police station were being used as emergency accommodation for the overspill from London jails.

To avoid leaving 15 prisoners in police custody during the night and to create space, prison staff moved 15 at Brixton to Wormwood Scrubs.

Hydraulic jacks were needed to unhinge the doors of two cells, and protective clothing and shields were drawn, but not used, after staff learnt that one of the three prisoners barricaded in was armed with a razor.

One of them went quietly, but in the second cell there was a struggle. A prisoner with head injuries refused medical treatment.

Nearly 150 cell spaces were used between January 29 and February 3. Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, told Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, chairman of the parliamentary all-party penal affairs group, in a Commons answer yesterday.

The Prison Department is now using cells at the Inner London Crown Court until March 21. The accommodation crisis comes after repeated warnings from officials.

Mr Duncan Butterly, a

Prison Department official, told MPs on the home affairs select committee over a year ago that prisons were suffering from years of neglect. He said: "The whole estate is, but not too exaggerated, a view on its collapsing round our ears, and it needs a massive injection of capital if we are to have prisons standing at the end of the decade."

The use of cells at Camberwell Magistrates' Court, Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court and Lavender Hill police station, is a regular of overcrowding in prisons while emergency repairs are made. The cells have been used for adult males awaiting trial. No one has remained in police cells for more than three nights, Mr Mayhew said.

There was an outcry when cells at Horseferry Road were used for longer periods during the prison officers' dispute in 1980. Lawyers described "inhuman conditions" and a client was said to have contracted scabies in "insanitary and unhygienic" cells.

But the Metropolitan Police said doctors were always available and people in the cells were given medical checks and seen at regular intervals.

The immediate cause of the present crisis is work at Brixton, Wormwood Scrubs and Pentonville, a prison which an official there told MPs was "falling to bits".

At Brixton 208 cells in P wing were taken out of use in October, 1980, because it was classed as structurally un-

sound. Repairs beginning next April will take about two years.

Building work at Wormwood Scrubs is already the subject of controversy and examination by Mr Gordon Downes, and Auditor General. Mr John McCarthy, described the prison as "a penal dustbin" in a letter to *The Times*.

The Government is considering changing statutory guidelines introduced in 1948 on custodial sentences for young offenders (Richard Evans writes).

At present a court is prohibited from passing such sentences on people under 21 "unless it is of the opinion that no other method of dealing with him is appropriate".

Mr Mayhew told the Commons select committee examining the Criminal Justice Bill yesterday that the present law was imprecise. "We would like to consider whether this formula in the Bill is appropriate — albeit that it has been on the statute book since 1948 — and is capable of some improvement," he said.

But he disapproved of an amendment proposed by Mr Kilroy-Silk which stipulated that courts could impose custodial sentences only where offenders were unable or unwilling to respond to non-custodial penalties or because the sentence was needed to protect the public.

Mr Mayhew said the suggestion was too restrictive

Girl's borstal 'the most violent'

By Frances Gibb

Bullwood Hall girls' borstal, in Essex, is the most violent and troubled prison establishment in England and Wales and should be closed as a matter of urgency, according to a research paper published today.

The paper, by Keep Out, a new pressure group of 50 academics, lawyers, journalists and politicians campaigning for a reduction in the number of young people in custody, describes Bullwood Hall as a penal dustbin for girls with nowhere else to go and says there are far more assaults and criminal offences there than in male establishments.

Such offences include violence, wilful damage, escapes or attempted escapes and disobedience. In 1980, 217 trainees were punished for 984 offences, including two of gross personal violence against an officer, 64 assaults and nine escapes.

Staff say there is also quite a lot of self-mutilation, including cuts and abrasions, ear piercing, insertion of needles into their bodies,

tattooing and even self-strangulation.

The paper notes that staff are concerned about the growing number of girls aged 15 and 16 given a borstal sentence. They believe many would benefit from better supervision, psychiatric care and hostel accommodation in the community.

The paper says Bullwood Hall has been described by a visiting psychiatrist as probably the most difficult establishment in the UK. The borstal's senior psychologist adds: "In my experience this population must be one of the most, if not the most, collectively disturbed and unstable."

A former assistant governor described his time there in 1979 as his most demanding job, including duty at Belfast's Maze Prison, then known as Long Kesh, at the height of internment.

Professor Norman Tutt, professor of applied social studies at Lancaster University and a founding sponsor of Keep Out, said: "There is unanimous agreement that

Bullwood Hall is an unsuitable environment for young women and girls and that its closure should be regarded as a matter of urgency."

He said that one of the most pernicious aspects of Bullwood was its inaccessibility, although it takes girls from all over the country.

The average sentence there is seven months, yet in 1980, 13 per cent of the girls had no visit at all while there, 16 per cent had one visit and 29 per cent were not seen by a probation officer or social worker.

The paper says that many of the girls should never have been sent there. It quotes the deputy governor: "There is great disparity of sentencing. For example, there is one girl here now for hanging a house parent on the thumb."

The paper concludes that for many girls "Bullwood Hall is a penal dustbin into which they have been thrown because there is nowhere else for them to go."

Reducing the Use of Custody for Young People, Keep Out, 71 Elmsdale Road, London, SE24.

Research consultants: 3

New threat to agriculture

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Agricultural Research Council shares a modest building in Great Portland Street, London, with the Schools Council, the Sports Council and the All England Women's Hockey Association.

It is responsible for 34 institutes and research units in England, Wales and Scotland, and its recent decision to close one of them and part of another has provoked much indignation and recrimination.

Professor John Rock, the council's second secretary, describes this as an unhappy time of having to face up to financial pressures and cash limits. There is a danger, he believes, of the institute becoming over-committed, so that the funds available for vital research have to be increasingly thinly spread.

Its budget for the current year is some £86m, of which about two thirds will be absorbed by the wages and salaries of the 7,000 employed in the service.

Some money can be saved by not filling vacancies, but the continuing burden of overheads such as the heating and maintenance of buildings increases the pressure to shut down whole units and redeploy the remaining staff.

Next month the council meets in London to review the position. Hopes of a reprieve for the Animal Breeding Research Organisation in Edinburgh, or for the pomology and food and beverages divisions of Long Ashton Research Station, at Bristol, are remote; the fear is that additional closures will be announced.

Professor Rock emphasizes the need for a more flexible organization and for greater readiness by scientists to switch from one project to another. He also believes there must be more centralized control, and that greater attention must be paid to what the "customer" wants.

But there the professor knows he is likely to tread on sensitive toes. There is constant mutual suspicion between scientists engaged on short-term applied projects and those working on long-term fundamental research.

The range of applied pro-

jects is enormous and commonly seeks solutions to problems of, for example, crop production, resistance to insecticides, fruit storage, animal diseases or quality control in dairies.

Such studies are often commissioned and sometimes paid for by grants from outside bodies. Last year the third largest outside contribution was from Oxfam.

Generally speaking, it is the applied research that is most appreciated by farmers. They have specific problems and they want the best possible advice on dealing with them. Government funds for that are channelled through the Ministry of Agriculture, and it accounts for about half the total budget.

The other half of the council's budget, which is funded directly by the Department of Education and Science, is for basic long-term research into subjects such as genetic engineering, biotechnology and photosynthesis.

Because that side of its activities is little understood, it is regarded with some suspicion although, as an official pointed out, eventual results could be far more significant.

Steering his tricky course, Professor Rock concedes that the research councils have fared better in terms of financial cuts than many other Government-funded organizations.

He is aware that, like most quangos, his council is regarded as inefficient and even unnecessary, but he points out that with a mere 160 staff, it is not exactly top heavy in relation to the institutes that it coordinates.

In answer to critics that the council itself should be abolished, rather than Long Ashton or Edinburgh, he answers that there would still be a need for some kind of central coordinating body to determine priorities.

Attitudes to the council within the various institutes inevitably vary.

One director, who at this delicate time preferred not to be named, suggested that agricultural research needed to be reorganized among a much smaller number of institutes.

"That means selective clos-

ing."

Tomorrow-Social science



A sculpture by John Taylor (right) of a boy suffering from muscular dystrophy and sitting in a wheelchair, on the steps of the Tate Gallery in London yesterday. It is a collecting device for the Muscular Dystrophy Group.

The Tate has just received an award for providing facilities for the disabled.

Farmers losing £2m a day

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

Sex discrimination by British Rail against its pensioners breaks the Treaty of Rome, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg decided yesterday.

In future women who retire from the industry should be given the same travel concessions for their families as men, according to the ruling from nine European judges.

A motion calling for the Government to support a real increase in fares prices in the forthcoming EEC review was carried unanimously.

The paper says that the railway's discrimination against women employees by stopping concessionary travel for their families when they retired.

The families of retired male workers on the other hand, continue to receive free or reduced fares.

Voice her satisfaction with the judgment yesterday, Mrs Garland said: "There are a lot of people hard hit by this discrimination. The decision is obviously right and have just proved it."

Mrs Garland, a clerical officer in British Rail's accounts department, took the railways to court with the help of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Her case took several years going through the British courts,

"Farm investment is at its lowest level for about twenty years," he added. "Farmers are having to borrow to maintain their working capital, or sometimes even to repay interest."

Although Sir Richard saw some hope of improvement, very few delegates shared that view. Mr J. L. Lampitt, a delegate from Stratford-on-Avon, said there was a danger of farmers becoming the new impotent peasantry of the 1990's.

If farm incomes continued to decline, it would affect not just farmers and farmworkers, but also the hundreds of thousands of workers in ancillary industries who depended on agriculture, and ultimately the entire British population, which took a significant supply for granted.

There is also criticism that the decision on Long Ashton and Edinburgh was made without consultation with the directors of the two establishments and with out-of-date information.

This attack by the Institute of Biology has to be seen in the context of a wider dissatisfaction with government changes in research, which emerged earlier last year with the decision to abolish the post of Chief Scientist at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The objection to that action was put in a letter to *The Times* by Sir Charles Pereira, FRS, one of the country's most eminent research biologists. Under a reorganization of research in 1972 half of the money for the Agricultural Research Council's work was put under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture. Sir Charles explained in the letter his reasoning on why a small chief scientist's group was needed to stop £4m of taxpayers' money being misused.

The French and the Dutch were very adept at getting the cheese because they had their marketing right.

Norwich loses appeal in sale of houses

By David Walker

The Court of Appeal yesterday endorsed the decision of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to take over houses and flats owned by the Labour-controlled Norwich City Council to speed their sale to tenants.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, with Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice May, agreed that Mr Heseltine acted lawfully in making an order under the Housing Act, 1980, after months of negotiation with the council on the progress of sales.

The council showed too little concern for the rights of the tenants", Lord Denning said. "Norwich council acted in complete good faith, but were misguided." They had been badly advised on many issues and had to answer for the consequences.

The judges dismissed the council's appeal against the Divisional Court's refusal to quash the Secretary of State's action and awarded costs estimated at £20,000 against it.

However, Lord Denning held out hope that if Norwich was prepared to "get a move on" in processing tenants' applications to buy, there might be no need for Mr Heseltine to act.

Later Mr Leonard Stevenson, leader of the council, promised to give the judge's live branch a close look. "We have delivered on sales all that we promised. We will consider whether there is a settlement to be made, but that depends on the Secretary of State as well".

Norwich is processing about seventy applications a month. At that rate it would reach the Government's target for house sales by next June, the date set last year by the council and deemed by the Government to be too distant.

Mr Stevenson said he and his colleagues would adhere strictly to the law when it was finally determined. Although the Court of Appeal refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords, Norwich councillors are to consider petitioning the Lords for a review of the case.

In his judgment Lord Denning emphasized the powers given to the Secretary of State by the Housing Act.

But the courts also had a duty to protect the individual from the misuse of public power; in this case, Lord Denning said, the individual was the tenant. Tenants had complained to the Secretary of State and the law gave him express permission to intervene.

After months of inquiry the Government has found proven charges against Norwich of slowness and deliberation.

Mr Heseltine had written: "From the first the council sought to inhibit and postpone the due process of tenants' claims under the law". Lord Denning and his fellow judges found that he had reached that decision properly.

The council's case had rested heavily on its refusal to employ the district valuer, an Inland Revenue official, to speed the sale of its property. The judges determined that the Secretary of State's advice to Norwich to use the valuer's office was sound.

Norwich council has admitted the right of 900 of its 25,000 tenants to buy their homes, and about 450 sales have so far been completed.

The Department of the Environment said after the judgment that it would not direct civil servants to take over Norwich's housing until the council had decided whether to appeal. Mr Heseltine, said during questions to the Commons.

In his letter, written last year and published in *The Times* on Monday, Sir Henry warned the Department of Education and Science that "there is a strong likelihood that lead in petrol is present in the IQ of many of our children".

Mr David Foot, Leader of the Opposition, asked if Mrs Thatcher had studied this extremely alarming letter. Does she accept the view (he went on) that the brain damage of some hundred thousand children may be involved and does she not think in reviewing that letter again that much more urgent action must be taken by the Government to deal with the problem?

Mrs Thatcher, in answer to the question, said: "Mr Foot has asked me to withdraw and say that the Government has taken steps to ensure that the statement she refers to is taken in Australia, the United States, Sweden and many other countries?"

Mrs Thatcher: More steps have been taken by this Government than under any previous government to reduce the level of lead in petrol. The statement was made in May 1981

closedly reflected Sir Henry's views. A full Europe-wide agreement on the design of cars would be needed.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Labour Party (Rotherham, Selby and Peebles): Since the Government have four years' notice to the international oil industry and international motor industry, why did not the Government take advantage of that notice to require totally lead-free petrol as it was operated.

Mrs Thatcher: I can well understand Mr Steel's concern.

As he knows, I am a Freddie Laker fan (Conservative cheer and Labour laughter).

Whatever his difficulties now,

nothing can take away from the great service he did in bringing the possibility of a low price oil to the market.

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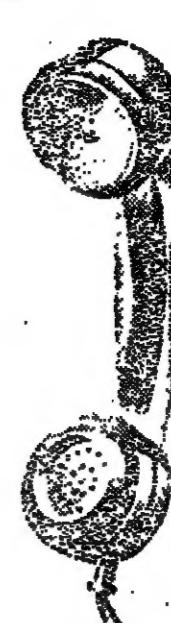
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International

NEWS IN
SUMMARY
Nixon fails
to halt
of tape

Reagan defends his budget in the 'heartland'

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb 9

"You have to get about 50 miles, at least away from the Minneapolis demonstration organizers. But the President was not moved by this display of dissatisfaction. In his speeches he made it clear he was not going to cut defense spending. 'We will not back down from our commitment to make America strong enough to remain both free and at peace'.

Making his first political tour of 1982, Mr Reagan decided to get well away from the capital; to the Middle West, to the snow-covered plains of Minnesota, Iowa and Indiana which comprise America's "heartland".

The main purpose of this trip is to sell to the nation his concept known as "new federalism" which was at the centre of last month's State of the Union address. Under this plan 43 federal programmes covering transport, education and community developments would be returned to the states.

However, in speeches delivered in Minneapolis and Des Moines, the President spent much time defending his controversial 1983 budget proposals as he did promoting federalism.

President Reagan apparently believes that the opposition to his budget, which called for massive cuts in social programmes and equally massive increases in defence spending, is coming mainly from "elitists" and "pundits" in Washington, New York and other eastern cities.

However, the noisy demonstrations which greeted him in Minneapolis and Des Moines showed there is also great concern among ordinary working people in the "heartland" about spending cuts, defence increases and the President's failure to address himself to the country's most pressing problem: unemployment.

"The President seems to be completely out of touch with what life is like for us," said



Survivors waiting on the wings of the struck aircraft and, below, an aerial photograph showing the runway.

Airliner crashed 300 yds short of the runway

By Our Foreign Staff

"All is normal", the Japanese airline pilot said yesterday as he made his final swing across Tokyo Bay before landing. Then the radio went dead.

A playback of the recorded conversation between the Haneda airport control tower and Captain Seiji Katagiri ended with a voice in the tower vainly calling for him to make contact.

The JAL DC8 aircraft carrying 174 passengers and crew crashed 300 yards short of the runway. Twenty-four people died and 150 were injured, 78 of them seriously. The flight deck was sheared off and rammed back into the fuselage.

About a mile from touchdown the aircraft suddenly lost height, and hit the sea ploughing across the surface snapping landing lights like matchsticks.

Captain Katagiri is in a serious condition in hospital. The co-pilot and other crew all survived but were badly injured.

All but one of the passengers on board the flight from Fukuoka city were Japanese. The foreigner was an official of Korean Airlines, JAL said.

Fishing boats and inflatable rescue craft rushed to the stricken aircraft slowly sinking in shallow water. The survivors struggled on to the wings to be rescued.

Fire departments, helicopters, trailing slings and nets took turns to lift them off. Eight hours after the crash the last person on board, an unidentified crew member, was winched to safety.

□ Manila: A chartered DC3 aircraft carrying Japanese tourists and Filipino escorts crashed in thick clouds into a mountain in central Philippines yesterday killing six people and injuring six critically.

Amnesty condemns Belgrade

By Richard Dowden

Nearly 600 people were prosecuted for criticizing the Yugoslav Government in 1980, almost double the number in 1979, according to Amnesty International.

Already in 1981 says the human rights organization, more than 800 people have been convicted of political offences, mainly connected with the disturbances in the Kosovo region in March last year.

Amnesty's report on Yugoslavia, published today, claims that many political prisoners were convicted under loosely-framed articles in the constitution which make it possible to imprison individuals for exercising constitutionally guaranteed rights in ways disapproved of by the authorities.

According to the Federal Public Prosecutor 84 per cent of political crimes brought before the courts in 1980 were "verbal offences". Other catch-all phrases in the report are "hostile propaganda" and "maliciously and untruthfully representing conditions in Yugoslavia".

Under the latter phrase Dr Fanjo Tudjman, the Croatian historian, was tried in Zagreb last year for giving three interviews to foreign journalists in which he said that Croatia's economic interests were not guaranteed.

He was convicted and sentenced to prison for three years with five-year ban on public expression. His case is pending appeal.

Father Nedjo Janic, a 23-year-old Serbian orthodox priest, is serving a four and a half year prison sentence for inciting religious and racial hatred. He had sung nationalistic songs at his son's christening.

The report also says that emigres have been kidnapped and murdered, probably by the Yugoslav secret police; that prison conditions are poor; there are isolated cases of physical and mental torture of prisoners; and there is discrimination against disidents in employment.

Yugoslavia Prisoners of Conscience (Amnesty International, Tower House, 8 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF).

German dows seek racial purity

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Feb 9

A group of West German university professors have called for action to stop the infiltration of the German people by foreign workers.

In terms reminiscent of the Nazis, the 15 professors issued a manifesto calling for the founding of a politically and ideologically independent association for the preservation of the German people and its spiritual identity.

They suggested the Government should "Strike at the root of the evil" by improving the foreign workers' life, through development in their home countries "and not here with us".

They did not say how the reparation of West Germany's 4.6 million foreign residents was to be achieved. But the foreigners return would bring the country not only racial but also ecological relief, according to the professors.

The manifesto was drawn up last year by a group of professors calling themselves the Heidelberg Circle and circulated among colleagues with a request for signatures and financial support. Not

11 of the professors issued a statement yesterday saying the text of the manifesto had

merely been a provisional one. The adverse criticism they claimed was the result of "a defamation campaign by radical leftists".

Nevertheless, they insisted that there would be very serious conflicts in West Germany if the Government did not tackle the problem.

The manifesto has confirmed the Government's growing fears that the numbers of foreign workers and dependents here will breed racism and social tensions without wise handling.

Brought in to supply much needed manpower during the years of the economic miracle, the foreigners are less welcome in a recession with the jobless figures creeping up to two million.

The professors insisted that they firmly support the democratic constitution and that they were against any form of nationalism, racialism or political extremism.

Evidently upset by the adverse reaction in the press 11 of the professors issued a statement yesterday saying the text of the manifesto had

Carrington impressed by Asean

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 9

Lord Carrington ended his tour of the five countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) in Singapore tonight more aware of the complexities of the struggle for Cambodia.

Encouraged by the dynamism and stability of Asean, but with little prospect that difficulties with Malaysia will be eased in the medium-term.

The Foreign Secretary's talks in the five capitals have been with the heads of state and of government of each one and have covered the whole gamut of interests from trade and investment to the East-West power balance.

Fortunately he was in the area just as the Khmer Rouge rejected proposals to join the loose coalition of Khmer oppositionists. Thus he has had the unusual experience of watching Asean policy at first hand begin to shape for the next stage of the struggle for the future of Cambodia.

From the refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border to the high-gloss technology of an exhibition of offshore

oil technology in Singapore, where Britain was the largest exhibitor, the Foreign Secretary has seen Asean and confronted Whitehall's most pressing regional problem — trading relations with Malaysia.

He did not expect to achieve a breakthrough and, judging by the generally hostile reaction of the Malaysian press to the proceedings, it will take a long time before there are any prospects that Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, will consider lifting his prohibition on government purchase of British goods when there are comparable alternatives.

Not even the Archangel Gabriel could have changed Dr Mahathir's attitude in an hour, the Foreign Secretary said in a radio interview today. At best, the British government has bought the problems out in the open and clarified at least some of the misunderstandings.

Judging from Dr Mahathir's non-acceptance of a number of Lord Carrington's explanations of key irritants

Letter from Brussels

Obstinate lifts test Community spirit

It is easier to get in to the European Commission building than it is to get up it, or for that matter down it. This basic fact of Community life is something which nine Portuguese politicians and officials found out the hard way recently when they were stuck in the lift at the Berlaymont Building.

It is possible that during their 25 minutes jammed between floors they had time to reflect on whether they were being given a pointed hint that their negotiations to join the EEC were likely to end up nowhere. Symbolically enough, one remained the way they were stuck between the ninth and eleventh floors in the Ten's administrative headquarters.

It takes time, patience and understanding to come to terms with the eccentrically obstinate lifts which are meant to deliver Eurocarts, secretaries and Commission hangers-on to the appropriate level of their working life.

Commission lifts come in two sizes. There is the compact six-person (average 80 kilogrammes or 12% stone each) variety which lines the back of the entrance hall. It was in one of these that the Portuguese came to grief. Nine of them weighed a sufficient amount over the statutory 480 permitted kilogrammes that the struggling lift ground to a halt.

Then in the hallways behind the entrance foyer lurk the giant economy 18-person (average 77.7 kilogrammes each) variety which stop — from time to time — at the actual floors.

The small lifts tend to be the more popular, not because the average harmonized Community lift passenger weighs 80 rather than 77.7 kilogrammes, but because they are slightly more accessible. They also have green strip-lights round their doors, rather like those round a sleazy nightclub entrance, which flash on and off when they arrive, which is not often.

The arrival of a Commission lift is a relatively rare occurrence. Indicator lights chart their progress as they climb and descend the building, leapfrogging each other from floor to floor. But it would delight a man from Ladbrokes if he could gather in the bet on which one is likely to arrive first.

The long wait for a lift means there is usually a crowd in excess of six, or with a cumulative weight above 480 kilogrammes, who either never come or who could not get in.

At the thirteenth floor it paused respectively among the commissioners and then set off down again, stopping dutifully at each floor. It arrived at the ground floor 12 minutes after leaving the first floor.

It might be wondered why anyone should bother to take a lift up one flight of stairs. The answer is that the stairs in the Berlaymont are so well hidden most people do not know where they are.

Ian Murray

EEC court rules on pop record

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Feb 9

Two versions of the Bee Gees pop group's record "Spirits Having Flown" have been occupying the attention of judges at the European Court recently. After an involved hearing the court today decided which of the two should be sold in European shops and which should be excluded.

The dispute began when the British company RSO backed over its British rights in the record to Polydor, one of its subsidiaries, and at the same time licensed two Portuguese companies to manufacture the same record.

The Portuguese records were significantly cheaper than those being made in Britain and a British importer, Simons, bought the cheaper version and imported it into Britain.

Polydor and RSO claimed that the Portuguese records were breaking the law and asked for a ban on their sale. The British Court of Appeal ruled that marketing the Portuguese records constituted a violation of the Copyright Act.

The European Court decided that the Portuguese records could not benefit from the rights of free circulation of goods available in the member states. Therefore RSO and Polydor were quite correct in opposing their sale.

Distributor bans sale of The Times in Turkey

Ankara — In a move described as "precautionary self-censorship", two British newspapers and a French paper were not distributed in Turkey by their importing agent. A spokesman for the agent, the Turkish Hachette, listed the papers as *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *Le Matin*.

The spokesman, who would not be named, said that the three newspapers were not distributed in Turkey because of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, could well take years.

At his final press conference tonight he hinted strongly that the countries of ASEAN might start co-operating on the "third force" idea of building up the

Khmer People's National Liberation Front of Mr Son Sam and Prince Sihanouk's

papers. The Hachette spokesman would not say what it was they found objectionable in the latest editions of the three newspapers. The company runs bookstores in Istanbul and Ankara and handles the distribution throughout Turkey of most foreign publications.

Since the Army ousted the civilian government in Turkey 16 months ago, restrictions have been placed on the Turkish press. A military communiqué issued in June 1981 bans all political controversy and discussion of past, present and future, this applies to former politicians as well as to the media.

However, there is no pre-publication censorship. Newspaper editors have been advised to exercise "self-control" along guidelines set by the military. —AP

Minister's reasonable use of Draconian power upheld

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Norwich City Council

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice May

[Judgment delivered February 9]

The Secretary of State for the Environment did not mislead himself in fact or in law but acted fairly and legally in deciding to exercise the Draconian power given to him by section 23 of the Housing Act 1980 to take over the process of sales of a local authority's council houses to tenants who had difficulty in exercising the right to buy given to them by the Act.

The Court of Appeal, in reserved judgments, dismissed an appeal by Norwich City Council from the dismissal by the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice Robert Goff) on December 18, 1981 (77e Times, December 19) of their application for an order of certiorari to quash a decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment in a notice of December 3, 1981, to use his powers of intervention under section 23 of the Housing Act 1980 in respect of Norwich council tenants who had claimed to exercise the right to buy council houses given them by the Act.

Section 23 of the 1980 Act provides: "(1) Where it appears to the secretary of state that the tenants . . . have or may have difficulty in exercising the right to buy effectively and expeditiously, he may, after giving the landlord . . . notice in writing of his intention so to do, use while the notice is in force, his powers under . . . this section."

By subsection (3) while such a notice is in force the secretary of state "may do all such things as appear to him necessary or expedient" to enable tenants to exercise the right to buy.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Mr Nigel MacLeod, QC, and Mr Charles Green, for the city council; Mr Simon D. Brown, QC, and Mr John Laws for the secretary of state.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case raised party politics but the issue was only to be decided according to law.

Local authorities owned a great number of council houses which had been built to house those in need. They had received housing subsidies for the purpose. They had become the subject of much controversy.

The Housing Act 1980 gave council tenants the right to buy their houses at a big discount; sometimes at half price. Some local authorities thought that it was undesirable because houses were taken out of their housing stock so that they were no longer available for those desperately in need of accommodation.

Norwich City Council owned about 10,000 houses, about half of those in the city. When the 1980 Act came into force many tenants claimed the right to buy. But there seemed to be endless delays.

The tenants became upset and complained to the secretary of state about the delay. After trying without much success to get the city council to hurry things up by taking the drastic action of taking all the sales out of the council's hands and putting them in his own hands. The council disputed his right to do so and asked for his order to be quashed.

The Act of 1980 gave tenants of three years standing the right to buy their council houses and to demand the whole or part of the price on agreement with the council. A tenant could serve a notice on the council claiming to exercise his right to buy.

Within four weeks the council had to admit or deny the right to buy. If the right was admitted the council had "as soon as practicable" to serve a notice on the tenant stating the price at which the council's opinion of the value of the house (section 10). If there was any question about the value of the house it was to be determined by the district valuer (section 11).

Section 23 had given a most unusual power to the secretary of state. If tenants had difficulty in exercising their right to buy, he could take the whole house out of the hands of the council, step in and conduct all the sales himself.

In October 1980, the first month when the Act was in force, 452 tenants claimed the right to buy; in the first year it was 2,000.

There were complaints of delays. It was said that the council did not get the valuations done quickly enough and when they were made, they were too high.

Many tenants appealed to the district valuer and got them reduced. By May 20, 1981 the local authority had admitted that the tenants had the right to buy, but no sale had been completed and the council had only started a price after valuation in 35 cases.

In May 1981 the Department of the Environment took up the matter with the Norwich City Council Meetings, cables and letters exchanged. The council made some improvements but never enough to satisfy the secretary of state.

One stumbling-block was the time taken to get the valuations. The council said that they had not the staff to make more than a few valuations a week and could not divert other staff to make the valuations.

The secretary of state said that the district valuer could be employed to make the valuations. The council said that that was not legitimate.

Covenants which the council wanted put in the conveyances were said to be unduly onerous to the tenants. The council said that the covenants referred to the conveyances had to be on the large scale of 1/500; whereas the secretary of state said that the scale of 1/1250 was quite sufficient.

The secretary of state said that all outstanding valuations should be completed by February 1982 but the council could not promise them before June.

The secretary of state took the view that the council's delays were so serious that he would be justified in taking action under section 23 of the 1980 Act.

Section 23 (8) authorized the secretary of state to retain the purchase money without paying interest thereon.

Section 23 (9) authorized him to recover the costs, from the council as a debt. There might be

a large sum which would have to be borne by the Norwich ratepayers.

The secretary of state took the view that the conduct of the Norwich councillors might amount to "wilful misconduct" so that they could be discharged under section 162 of the Local Government Act 1972.

After a warning letter of October 29, 1981, sent to all members of the council, a meeting was held on November 5, 1981, attended by councillors and officers of the council, the members of Parliament for both the Norwich divisions, the secretary and minister of state and officials of the Department of the Environment.

The secretary of state said that the council should consider putting to it a new timetable, should go back to the district valuer and advise all members of the personal consequences they faced.

On November 11, 1981, the council set out their answer in a letter saying that they were trying to keep a balance between the need not to increase their staff costs and the various claims on the resources in the housing and employment field which could not be neglected.

The council said that to use the services of the district valuer would conflict with his appellate role under the Act.

The council's letter concluded that local government in the environmental field could exist on the basis of cooperation between central and local government — within a tradition that the secretary of state made reasonable requests and a local authority made reasonable compliance according to the circumstances.

On December 3, 1981, the secretary of state made his formal order under section 23.

On the same day the council applied to the High Court to quash the notice. On December 18 the Divisional Court refused the application. The city council appealed.

The charges, against the councillors were: (1) slowness in issuing section 10 notices due to delay in making price valuations; (2) delay caused by "councillings" — interviews; (3) overvaluing valuations; (4) unreasonably慢慢的; (5) poor performance compared with other local authorities; (6) failure to employ district valuer; (7) insisting on assignments instead of new tenancies so that a tenant who wanted to exchange his house for another would lose his right to buy.

The court had to consider a more coercive power in a minister of the Crown, a "default power". It enabled a minister, if he considered that a local authority was not performing its duty, to declare that the authority was in default and to take steps to ensure that the function was properly performed.

This default power enabled the central government to interfere in the work of local authorities. Local government was such an important part of the Constitution that the courts should be vigilant to see that the default power was not exceeded or misused.

Whenever the wording of the statute permitted the courts should read into it a provision that the default power should not be exercised without due regard to the rules of natural justice: *Board of Education v Rice* (1911) AC 179 and *Ridge v Baldwin* (1964) AC 41.

The minister was dismissed for failing to discharge his duty to the public.

The court had to consider the "ideal" rape. The "ideal" rape was to be a "perfectly horrific, but relatively rare. The reality of that turned out to be rather different: although these cases were undoubtedly horrific, they were by no means rare. During the year I spent illustrating here is rather more prevalent than the second.

In the context of a study on the law of rape, I attended some 50 contested trials and 30 cases where the defendant pleaded "guilty" at the Central Criminal Court in 1978-79. Press reports usually

create the impression that gang rapes are not only particularly horrific, but also relatively rare. The reality of that turned out to be rather different: although these cases were undoubtedly horrific, they were by no means rare. During the year I spent illustrating here is rather more prevalent than the second.

The position under section 23 was different to that in the *Tamara case* — greater power was conferred on the minister than under section 68 of the Education Act 1944.

Section 23 of the 1980 Act might well be without precedent in such legislation. His Lordship was driven to the conclusion that the question which the court must ask itself was: "Provided the minister has properly directed himself, can he reasonably conclude on December 3, 1981, that council tenants in fact had in fact had, or might have, difficulty in exercising their right to buy effectively and expeditiously?"

The council could not be regarded as having acted unreasonably in approaching their obligations under the Act. But the defendant argued on behalf of the minister that his decision to intervene was not related to any timetable in any other section. Further, the words "expeditiously" was simply geared to the view of the minister.

Looking at the history, there was overwhelming evidence that the council's policy in relation to the administration of the Act was not merely one of lack of enthusiasm but what might be called passive resistance. As was only to be expected in a highly political piece of legislation, the council and the housing committee had divided on party lines.

One of the Draconian aspects of section 23 was that it did not require any prior process of valuation.

No doubt, however, the minister must act fairly and the correspondence and meetings showed that he did not act unfairly in any way.

The issue concerning the district valuer had caused his Lordship the greatest difficulty. But the affidavit sworn on behalf of the minister said that his decision to intervene was not related to any timetable in any other section.

And challenge to the good faith of the minister had been expressly disclaimed before the court. In agreement with the Divisional Court, his Lordship could see no basis which would entitle the court to interfere with the minister's decision under section 23.

Lord JUSTICE MAY, also agreeing, said that the wording of section 23 (1) was clear. The secretary of state had to consider whether the tenants had or might have difficulty in exercising their right to buy effectively and expeditiously.

His Lordship would not dissent from the proposition that the more Draconian the powers that were given to ministers, or others, whether by statute or the rules of a club, the more careful should be the person seeking to exercise those powers.

The secretary of state must act fairly and reasonably in exercising the powers given him by section 23 but he need not follow that a secretary of state was only entitled to intervene when the relevant local authority was acting unreasonably, that was to say, was acting in a way no other reasonable local authority would.

The secretary of state said that the system worked perfectly well also for the valuations under the Housing Act 1980. No tenant had ever objected. In half the cases the valuation was reduced. Only the Norwich City Council had taken objection.

Justice was in fact done by a senior officer quite distinct from the one who made the initial valuation.

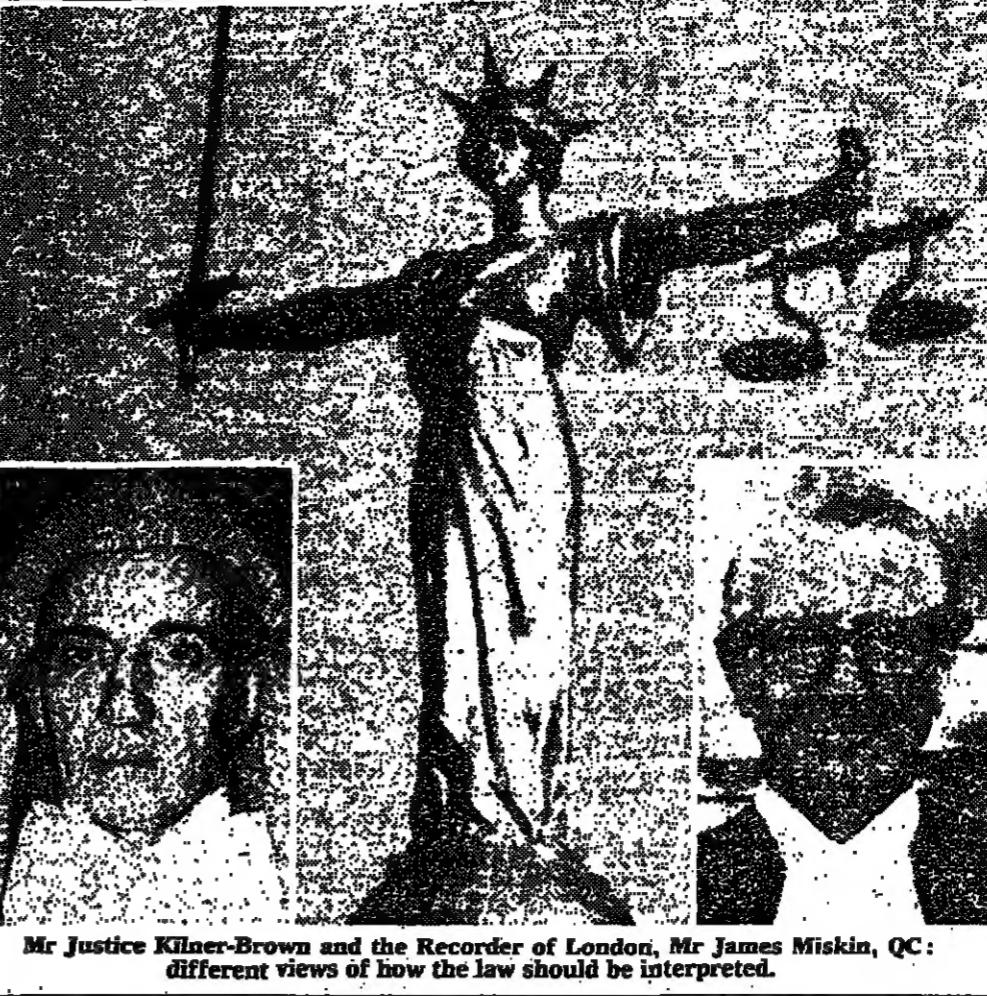
The concern of the court was, as always, to protect the individual from the misuse of abuse of power by those in authority. The individual here was the tenant to whom Parliament had given the right to buy.

Solicitors: Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Mr R. Bamford, Norwich; Treasury Solicitor.

How the rape law really works

The 1976 Sexual Offences Act was designed to protect rape victims from unnecessary cross-examination about their previous sexual experience. But

is it working in practice? Zsuzsanna Adler sat in on 30 Old Bailey rape cases last year to find out. This is her disturbing report.



Mr Justice Kilner-Brown and the Recorder of London, Mr James Miskin, QC: different views of how the law should be interpreted.

Judge to decide whether or not such evidence is relevant in any particular case. Not surprisingly, wide discretion has led to a very uneven implementation of the law. I found that while some judges adhered to the spirit of the 1976 Act, others tended to interpret it in rather a narrow way and sometimes disregarded it altogether.

Judge Brian Gibbons

voiced his disapproval of the Act in an uncertain terms: "I think it might be unfair, perhaps even more so in an older woman, to prevent cross-examination on sexual proclivities, but that is what Parliament wants...."

Leaving aside the strictly legal considerations involved in the operation of the 1976 Act, it was clear from my observation that individual judges had blatantly different approaches to complainants in rape cases. At some point in the course of giving evidence, most women became tearful or even acutely distressed. Attitudes by judges, again, were very variable. The majority were fairly sympathetic, particularly when the victim was young, and adjourned for a short while to give her time to recover.

Others were not only

hostile. In one case, a 17-year-old complainant, who had been assaulted by two men she did not know, was having great difficulty in telling the court what had happened to her. She became very upset, crying and muttering "I can't, I can't say it".

Judge Edward Sturcliffe, looking at the jury and told her in a harsh tone and with considerable exasperation: "You're going to have to pull yourself together if you are going to give this evidence, you know!"

Although the law imposes some limitations on the cross-examination of the complainant about her sexual history with men other than the defendant, there is no restriction about her prior relationship with the accused. When a woman is known to have had a sexual relationship with a man who later raped her, no matter how brutally, her allegations was invariably accused of "leading on" their assailants. Provocative behaviour in this sense ranged from accepting a lift home to being alone late at night. Defence lawyers had no difficulty in presenting women as provocative or sexually available. Their actions and motives were scrutinized at the slightest hint of what has been called contributory negligence on

their part. Consider, for example, the following questions:

"Were you in the habit of going to pubs by yourself in the evening?"

"At the disco, you just danced with anybody and everybody, didn't you?"

"Were you quite happy to accept a lift home from him?"

The defence often tried to show that the woman put herself in a risky situation in order to shift the blame from the defendant: suggestions that she was not entirely innocent were used to imply that the defendant was not altogether guilty. Alleged victims were more or less directly accused of provocation in the most absurd situations: in one case, the defendant, who had never met the complainant before, broke into her flat in the middle of the night. All that didn't stop him from claiming that she consented, and during the trial, she was cross-examined as follows:

"— You wore no clothes in bed?

"— No, I had on a quilt and a sheet.

"— Were your breasts showing?

"— No.

"— I suggest that the quilt slipped and your breasts were showing."

The general character of the alleged victim was also frequently attacked in court. The jury's attention would be drawn to various facts about her — for example, that she lived in a squat, that her boyfriend had been in drugs, that she herself had a drink problem or a criminal record. The relevance of such matters to the issue of consent is highly doubtful, but the general lifestyle of all the most respectable victims was regularly scrutinized in this way. Discrediting her in general terms gave the defence grounds to ask the jury to disbelieve her rape complaint. As one lawyer said: "You've heard evidence about the sort of girl she is — you have to take that into account as background of the case".

The defence tended to rely heavily on the old stereotype, apparently widely accepted by juries, that rape occurs as a result of uncontrollable sexual urges aroused by provocative women. Thus, victims were almost invariably accused of "leading on" their assailants. Provocative behaviour in this sense ranged from accepting a lift home to being alone late at night. Defence lawyers had no difficulty in presenting women as provocative or sexually available. Their actions and motives were scrutinized at the slightest hint of what has been called contributory negligence on

the part of the complainant. The defence would argue that the woman had a history of psychiatric illness. Allegations of mental instability were sometimes made without any more concrete evidence than the victim's spontaneous mention of feeling depressed. However, where the defence had something more tangible to go on, such as past suicide attempts or periods of psychiatric treatment, the whole area became explored in great detail during the trial.

This would then be used by the defence to suggest that the woman's evidence was unreliable because of her psychiatric history. For

example, "We have here a girl of 18. We know from the scars on her wrists that there is some history of attempted suicide. She might be continuing this with another defendant". An alternative was to imply that the alleged victim was one of those dead women who spend their lives making unfounded rape allegations against innocent men.

The 1976 Act emphasized that the crucial element in the offence of rape is the lack of consent, not force. Nevertheless, rape victims were still expected to prove in court that they physically resisted to the utmost. Cross-examination on this subject tended to set up an expectation of how "real" victims behave, and the complainant's reaction was then measured against that.

"— Did you scratch his face?"

"— You don't think of that at the time.

"— Surely, it's instinctive?"

"— I didn't have the strength to do anything."

"— Did you try and run away?"

"— Yes."

"— Did you hit him?"

"— No."

"— Did you push him away?"

"— Yes."

"— Kick him?"

"— You don't think of things like that; I've already explained!"

When the complainant did not have at least some injuries, her story was rarely substantiated. On the other hand, severe injuries did not guarantee success for the prosecution. One young woman who had been locked into a room with her attacker all night eventually got away from him by jumping out of a second floor window. She

Interview

Keeping one jump ahead of the rest

A new company launches itself at the Haymarket Theatre tonight, with a brave choice of play and the versatile Trevor Peacock making a rare West End appearance. Sheridan Morley investigates.

The Theatre Royal, Haymarket, in its long and distinguished stage history seen many attempts to form a permanent company there; Gielgud ran a legendary season in 1944-45 and more recently, in the middle 1960s, John Richardson was at the head of a more short-lived Haymarket Rep. A few months ago, ambitious plans were announced for a Robin Phillips-Derek Jacobi season which came to nothing; but now, at last, the Haymarket is to have its own resident team once again for a series of at least three new productions running through until the end of the summer under the auspices of Triumph Productions.

They open tomorrow with *Hobson's Choice*, a brave start not only because it has in living memory had acclaimed revivals at both the National and (only a few months ago) the Lyric, Hammersmith, but also because in casting Penelope Keith as Maggie Hobson, the director Ronald Eyre has taken his new company's most immediately recognizable commercial asset and given her a stage image which may not altogether chime with the expectations of television viewers awaiting another jokey Home Counties lady to the manor born.

Nevertheless, Eyre has surrounded her with a strong team led by Anthony Quayle as old Hobson and, as Willie Mossop, the actor-composer-lyricist Trevor Peacock, whom this will be rare West End appearance.

The second son of a Tottenham evangelist (the other one became an assistant headmaster), Peacock went through Enfield Grammar doing impressions of his teachers and graduated from that to running the garrison theatre in Dicton during his national service; from early childhood, there had not been much doubt about a career: "My father would occasionally take us on family outings to 'suitable' plays at the Intimate in Palmer's Green. One night two fellows came on in the first act and the first one mentioned the word 'brothel' and father said 'Right, that's it, everybody out' and we all had to leave".

Soon after leaving the army, however, he met the pop director Jack Good and the two of them began doing an eccentric double act, first for Clement Freud's club on top of the Royal Court in Sloane Square and from there to the Windmill: "It was a very erudite sketch about an old Oxford".

"I also wrote two other film scripts that never got made, and that used to depress me a lot until I met a very distinguished Hollywood screenwriter on a plane who said that was the best banting average he'd ever come across in a writer, one film made for three written. The average is apparently one in twelve, but I've stopped writing them now. And going to them, it's all rubbish".

"What we really need is a young Max Wall, and there are precious few of those around. I can tell you; but I love working on musicals for Manchester. They break through that posh preserve of the Cheshire theatre-going belt and appeal to a quite different city audience; most people, you know, would as soon plan a visit to China as to a theatre. But when they get there, the theatre I mean, and find they can get bars and buns and a song or two, then there's a good chance they'll come back".

"I like the idea of a regular, loyal audience and hope that maybe we'll find one at the Haymarket; when I was at the RSC in *Henry V*, and people used to come backstage to say they'd seen the play eighteen times, I thought they meant Burton's, Neville's, Howard's and so on, but what they meant was they'd seen our production eighteen times. It was amazing, but if you can find those sorts of groupies then anything is possible."

"Now at the start of his fifties, and well into a second marriage which means that he has sons of 20 (Daniel, already in the Royal Exchange company) and two months, Peacock is aware that he is coming into a good time: "Occasionally I've been offered my own television situation-comedy series but I've been careful to avoid those because they make you into a one-character actor and then they're very hard to break out of; the range I've had lately of work, from *Talbot and Jack Cade* in the new BBC *Henry VI* cycle to *ITV's Born and Bred*, has meant that I can keep jumping about, and that's what matters most."

Instead, Peacock concentrates largely on shows at the Manchester Exchange and television (most recently a superb Quip in *The Old Curiosity Shop* and one of the few characters actually to make himself understood in *The Borgias*). He also wrote the book, music and lyrics for a couple of highly successful Manchester musicals, one of which (*Erb*) died a terrible death in London while the other (*Leaping Ginger*) has not yet made it south. Undeterred, he is now hard at work between Hobson performances on a third — he and the composer Alan Price are doing a musical of the Andy Capp strip cartoon which opens at the Royal Exchange early this summer if they can find an Andy:

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Television

Charm of a good soap opera

There were plenty of problems in *The Silly Season* (Play for Today, BBC1), Stephen Mulrine's sad comedy from Glasgow which seemed to have been in the can long enough to include references to Sir Keith Joseph in an unfamiliar post and to present as its plausible central idea the spectacle of students doing holiday work at a bottling plant.

There were Isabel's problems, for a start. Isabel (Elaine Collins) wore pink pantomime pantyhose and a tiny black skirt that might have been made out of toffee paper: she was neglected by her father and made pregnant by Jimmy, for whom she did not care. If you thought Isabel a coarse slut (and she was) she was gentle herself compared to fecund sister Eileen (Janette Fogg), a young Maenad whose soft lips twisted and green eyes blazed with fierce

joy as one moral imperative after another consumed her. Completing the trio of bleak wrath of Ellen, and witches waiting for the return of their father and her unwanted child, like husband Malcolm (Derek Anders) was a sour and Edwardian novel in Manwaring's trousseau — his wife Ellen (Mary Riggans).

Malcolm had other problems, too: he had lost office in his union for refusing to endorse a strike, and now he was hopelessly in love with Lesley (Frances Low), the art student with the delicious nose and ginger curls at the bottling plant. Lesley's problems were modest: an enlightened and civilized upbringing, and cohabitation with Alastair (Iain Lomax), an engaging partner and hopelessly childlike revolutionary whose curls were nearly as pretty as hers, but blond.

We are free agents, he told her generously, during a rare row, to which she replied "But it's my flat" and chucked him out. He returned next day, of course, and perhaps even for Kevinside.

Michael Ratcliffe

Jazz

Woody Shaw

Ronnie Scott's

Woody Shaw served his apprenticeship as a young trumpeter with such leaders as Art Blakey, Eric Dolphy, Jackie McLean and McCoy Tyner, but his brief tenure with Horace Silver's group in the middle 1960s seems to have planted the hardest seeds in his own conception. Shaw's quintet, which began a two-weeks residency on Frith Street on Monday, favours several Silverish shades: strong, simple structures usually based on coiled piano figures, bright textures which stop just short of harshness, and Latin-inflected rhythms.

The leader's own playing has long threatened to qualify him for stardom, but somehow he has never escaped the shadow of Frey Hubbard, and perhaps he is now consigned to a place in the second division. For all his unquenchable fire and vivacious attack, one improvisation sounds very much

like another — a standard criticism of post-bop soloists, in this case fully justified. After listening recently to trumpeters as stylistically diverse as Ruby Braff and Wynton Marsalis, it is hard to get worked up over Shaw's predictable recourse to double-time runs in practically every chorus.

He shares the front line with a trombonist, Steve Turrie, whose approaches range from the diffident to the blaring and who makes an agile partner in the head arrangements of "Star Eyes" and Shaw's own rapid "Ginseng People". The piano work of Mulgrew Miller provided adequate support but undistinguished solos, and Tony Reis seemed a most promising young drummer, delivering a little beat in the middle, and an emphatic Billy Higgins, and making something musically interesting of his four-bar breaks.

The group's star is unquestionably its bassist, Stafford James, an unsung performer who combines walking lines of quiet but massive swing with a flexibility which stops short of gymnastics. His tone throughout the registers is marvellously consistent; he has a way, too, of starting a chorus with a few halved-time bars before slipping into a regular 4/4, providing an illusion of acceleration which gives the soloist a flying start.

Richard Williams

Theatre

Fair game, and not so fair

Operation Bad Apple

Royal Court

G. F. Newman has found a snappy title to link this play with the Operation Countryman inquiry, but, in view of the careful programme disclaimers of any resemblance between his cast of villainous cops and any past or present officers of the Metropolitan Police, he might have done better to call it *Operation Hot Potato*.

The author's own view of the subject is crisply expressed in the opening spectacle of an evidently incorporeal Assistant Commissioner explaining the terms of their inquiry to the visiting Wiltshire constabulary, before retiring to his Esher residence to receive a £3,000 robbery kickback from a cold-eyed underling.

The underling is one Detective Chief Inspector

Sneed, a rising young officer, loaded with commendations, and later to make his mark as the Wiltshire team's long-awaited supergrass. Until Sneed falls into their clutches, they haul in nothing but a few small fry with the big fish swim round watching them waste their time.

When Sneed begins talking and disclosing his jealousy and preserving records, it appears that there will shortly be no CID left; at which point, the Home Office allows the Met to take over the inquiry and suppress the evidence. The piece ends with Sneed repeating the opening routine and solemnly informing his listeners that there may be one or two bad apples in the barrel and it is their sacred duty to root them out.

Whatever the play's documentary basis, its main purpose is to supply a good night out for spectators who enjoy watching the police get into it in the neck. As I do not care for blood sports I

found it an uncomfortable experience. The police are fair game for critical documentary treatment or wild farce, like *Orton's Loot*. Until Sneed falls into their clutches, they haul in nothing but a few small fry with the big fish swim round watching them waste their time.

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Coming from the author of the *Bastard* trilogy and the *Law and Order* series, the dialogue has the ring of total authenticity, combining formal police procedure with criminal shorthand and brutal wit: finding corruption in the Met, Sneed tells his interrogators, "is like drinking for water in Ireland". If you have a taste for exposure scenes, Mr Newman has them in abundance, working the hierarchy from the foul-mouthed Detective Sergeant level to the shifty-eyed panic of the top brass.

But the most interesting feature of the play is the spectacle of policemen undergoing the treatment they deserve for others: some reacting with ferocious incomprehension when finding themselves on the receiving end; others, like Patrick Malahide's nerve-hardened Sneed, facing his opposite numbers as if they were chess opponents. "It's like sitting here listening to myself", he says contemptuously, observing his adversary's provincial technique.

Max Stafford-Clarke's production conjures up a succession of locations with the aid of a few chairs and a golf ball; the reality of the characters diminishes as they ascend the social scale, but Roger Booth and Toby Salaman give the Met two adversaries to be reckoned with.

Irving Wardle



Toby Salaman (standing), Patrick Malahide, adversaries to be reckoned with

Concerts

Monochrome effect

LSO/Marriner

Festival Hall

Britten's *Men of Goodwill*

LSO/Marriner

Festival Hall

Britten's *Men of Goodwill*

LSO/Marriner

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Britten's *Men of Goodwill*

LSO/Marriner

Festival Hall

For the Médecin family, running Nice is a way of life: the present mayor, Jacques, is angrily denying charges of corruption in his city...

Dirty tricks, says le patron, and takes the gloves off

by Jonathan Fenby

Nice is wine and circus time in Nice this month. The annual carnival is in full swing, with weekly "battles" between floral floats and mighty dances under huge strip cartoon characters in the central Place Masséna. Everybody seems to be having a good time. Sometimes police join in the dancing, trailing silver heart-shaped balloons as they sway across the cobblestones.

This Mediterranean gaiety is an essential part of the image that Nice has built up since it began to develop as a tourist centre at the end of the last century. But behind the image there is the reality of bitter political in-fighting, economic pressure, shutdowns, casinos, tension with the central government in Paris and, now, *l'affaire Graham Greene*.

The novelist's allegations of corruption by the city's criminals of police officers, magistrates and lawyers, first made in a letter to *The Times*, on January 25, came at a tricky time for the well-entrenched establishment which has run the city for decades. Tourism is declining. Both of Nice's big casinos are closed because of tax debts. Luxury hotels along the Promenade des Anglais report falling business.

Though best known for tourism, Nice is also an important industrial centre with 350,000 inhabitants, and has been banking on becoming France's California through a combination of holiday appeal and high technology companies.

But the soggy state of the French economy has slowed things down. The city's economically important construction industry is in a

rocky state and the property market has plunged since the socialist electoral triumph last summer.

Nice, like many other previous conservative strongholds was not immune from the left-wing tide. Two of the city's three members of the National Assembly are now socialists, and the right-wing city council have no doubt that Nice's affairs come under particular, and critical, scrutiny from the national administration in Marseilles.

After a long period of absence from the city council, left-wingers won a third of the seats in 1978 and are doing everything they can to turn that into a majority at next year's municipal elections.

For them, Graham Greene's allegations came as a godsend. The socialist weekly, *Nouvel Hebdo de Nice*, put the writer on its cover and devoted four pages to the affair as an example of the way the city needs a radical change of direction. That in turn, was proof enough for members of the ruling group in Nice that the whole thing had been got up by their political enemies with one particular target in mind: the mayor who has run Nice for 15 years.

The relationship between Nice and its mayor is one of lover and mistress", the editor of the local newspaper commented last week. "Jacques Médecin is quite simply, *le patron*".

That is not something the 53-year-old M. Médecin would quarrel with. Graham Greene's allegations do not concern him personally, he insists, and, indeed, Greene has made a point of never naming him. But M. Médecin still feels he has to climb into



The Mayor of Nice, Jacques Médecin, and his American wife: 'Why is my city always singled out?'

Corruption in Nice
From Mr Greene, C.H.
Sir, After the murder of a girl on the streets of Nice around Christmas 1981, I received a telephone call here in Antibes (though my number is not listed) from a man with a rather rough voice which spoke of an unmissable opportunity.

Graham Greene and his controversial letter to The Times on January 25

Nice's current notoriety, M. Médecin told me, had a simple cause: "The left hates me because I am one of the

most combative right-wing politicians in the country. They hate my guts and I hate their guts. They want to destroy me as an example of what happens when you stand up to them. They cannot compete with my administration here so they have decided to fight by tricky ways, and the tricky way is to try to give me the image of dishonesty."

"Those so-called socialists tell the people in Nice that Jacques Médecin has not done a thing for the poor and that they will do better. But they know I have done a lot for the poor, for all people who need help."

M. Médecin is very much a man of the Midi. He has written a good-selling book on the local cuisine and, engagingly, lists collecting model trains as one of his hobbies, together with rose growing, swimming and fishing. His second wife, an American heiress from the Max Factor cosmetics family many years his junior, appears beside him on municipal posters wishing the citizens of Nice a happy new year.

For anybody bearing any other name to be mayor of Nice would be as unthinkable as communist participation in the French government would have been a few years ago. Apart from a two-year break in the 1940s, Jacques Médecin's father was mayor from 1926 until 1965; Jacques took over the following year after working as a journalist.

For M. Médecin's opponents, the long family tenure of power reflects Nice's democratic backwardness and accounts for the recurrent suspicions

about the way the city is run. "The kind of government that exists in Nice is the classic government of the south, like British rotten boroughs of the past", says M. Max Gallo, one of the socialist deputies elected last June and author of a novel of crime and corruption clearly based on the image of dishonesty.

"The permanence of the same family, not to speak of the same clans, does not encourage clear, transparent public life and gives rise to suspicions and gossip, either with a real basis or as the product of the imagination."

Nice, M. Gallo notes, has been French only since 1860. It was then a small Mediterranean town, run by a closed circle of men, and its growth into France's fifth biggest city this century has not shaken its nineteenth century municipal structure.

However much local enthusiasts may talk of an injection of high technology industries, says M. Gallo, Nice has still not become integrated with the rest of the country. He has his own clear ideas about changing that situation if he manages to unseat M. Médecin in next year's mayoral election.

Whatever happens, the economic and political pressures of the next few years are bound to put the old system that has run Nice for so long under pressure. The carnival will go on, but Graham Greene's private war may play its little part in deciding whether it dances to the familiar Médecin tune or to a more left-wing air.

advisers decided he should give more news conferences. This has called for still more regular and more intensive briefing by his staff.

It has been said that presidential news conferences have become exercises in damage control as the press grows more critical.

But there can never have been a White House staff

there certainly has not been in the four previous presidencies I have observed

which is so fearful of what their President will say. This determines much of the character of his days.

More than any other previous administration, Mr Reagan's is committed to marketing techniques, from the elaborate use of surveys to the final marketing of the finished product by a team of media consultants. A White House day is more and more dominated by a continuous process of educating the President for the public performances arranged by his staff.

How long the President spends at his desk or elsewhere absorbed in public concerns is now a more closely guarded secret than before. What is increasingly clear is that it is less a matter of how much time he is willing to spend at his desk than it is probably more than at the beginning of the stages in decision-making at which the White House structure requires or even permits his intervention.

Every description of the process given by the triumvirate of his top advisers is woolly. Even when the President personally makes a serious error (as in supporting tax-exempt status for racially segregated schools), when he personally resists the weight of advice (as in pursuing his policy of big tax cuts), both the moment of the presidential decision and the manner in which it was reached are hard to discover.

The country simply does not know what he does, which has so far clearly been to his advantage. But if one adds up the decisions in which he is known to have had a hand at a stage that mattered, the irresistible impression is of a President whose interventions are intermittent and arbitrary, and are made on a range of ill-assorted issues of varying seriousness and triviality.

Above all, there is no more evidence now than at the beginning that he gives any sustained attention to the graver and more far-reaching questions of foreign policy. This situation can only deteriorate because of the character of his budget message. For yet another year his Congress and the country's attention will be concentrated on domestic policy and the protracted battles that it will cause.

A president who has made it inevitable that he must lead the fight for the budget, and lead his party in the elections which will be focused on it, is not a president who will have much time in any day to consider the Nato alliance.

One of his triumphs, James A. Baker III, said the other day: "We're not unhappy with the way the President's time has been scheduled. One of the things we do in our morning meetings is talk about how we think the President's time is being allocated and spent in a macro sense."

If ever I find myself allocating my time in a macro sense I will decide reluctantly but firmly that it is time to go.

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Henry Fairlie

Reagan to the rescue of Fort Budget

Considering the science fiction intervention of the process of human development, it has been reasonable, adulterous, official incest (AIDS) have been passed, even remarkable. Dishes has mainly for significance, thousand enabled through AIDS, fertilization as a hundred.

Medical area is great. Before long, in the manipulation connection, including the British Nato, which meets subject today, a complete a field unit to take.

Existing have been used for some years medical immediate an order that ban. That is how to make hope to be have their children there was de.

Nevertheless, implications fully consider the BMA's ought to be his guidelines prepared by Obstetrics and Gynaecology matter to the doctors, strong case government including a

Chemical held in abeyance. Rogan's record for funds chemical work, they are Western European American record. Chemical work been manning United States are they like immediate other hand, is already un in Arkansas "developed" much difficult deployed. Strategic nuclear envisaged Western Europe suggestion further risks neutralist set with the anti which it is

The policy if — as M suggested — make the weapons less likely, to abolish them. President Reagan's in that is protective possible attacks. The programme is a replace existing which are due will shortly dangerous to when to potential. But the President's proposal for a new indicates. His

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Art and the

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the year on Mr

Ben Nicholson, for many enthusiasts the greatest of all contemporary British artists, died for his work. When he died on Saturday at his Hampstead home, he had only three weeks earlier completed the arrangements for an exhibition of his recent paintings at the Waddington Galleries in Cork Street, W1, next month.

"I thought he was working extremely well", said Sir Norman Reid, director of the Tate Gallery until he was succeeded by Nicholson's son-in-law, Alan Bowness, two years ago. "Latterly he had expressed a great admiration for Miro, perhaps because Miro was about his own age and, apart from Henry Moore, almost the only surviving artist of that generation. But I think there was also a real appreciation of Miro's playful attitude to art, and his own work had taken on a more relaxed quality, without being of course in any sense sloppy".

Nicholson was in some ways a very solitary and private person (despite being thrice-married), but allowed Reid to visit him regularly in Pilgrim's Lane — up the road from Michael Foot — and even urged him to bring along some of his own paintings. "He was very

encouraging without being at all lenient", Reid recalled.

In the studio Reid would see the jugs and vases which he loved to draw and paint. "Friends tended to bring him things when they found something particularly delicious. They stood around and worked their way into his visual memory. And when he picked up a pencil something magical happened as you know".

The poet Geoffrey Grigson, who knew Nicholson most of his life, recalled taking him to Bath four years ago. After being enormously impressed by the Royal Crescent, Nicholson drifted into an antique shop, emerging with a large glass goblet. When they returned to Grigson, he asked whether he could take over the kitchen, and spent the rest of the day closeted there drawing the goblet.

"He was an extraordinarily gay character", Grigson said fondly, "and a monstrous maker of puns."

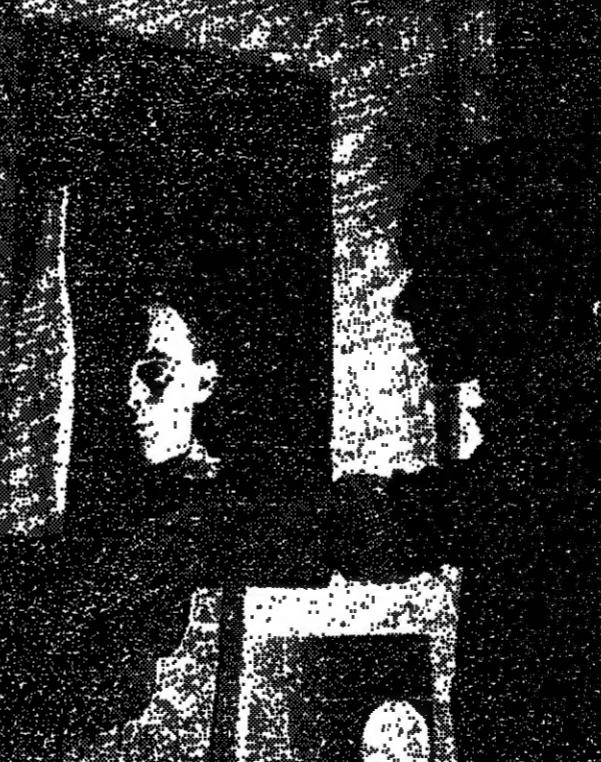
While married to his third wife, Dr Felicitas Vogler, a German journalist and photographer, Nicholson

lived from 1958 to 1972 on the Swiss side of the Italian border, near Ascona, in a modern house overlooking Lake Maggiore. Friends like Grigson and Reid, who visited him, agreed that he felt unduly isolated and cut off from his friends. When he returned to England, he stayed for a time in part of an old mill near Cambridge belonging to the architect Leslie Martin, his friend from the 1930s when art and design marched hand in hand.

"The great point about his work was its extreme subtlety, which was part of his character", Sir Leslie recalled yesterday. "He never wanted to do anything else but paint". Nicholson liked Martin's architectural work, not least when it reminded him of something he himself had done; and Martin felt reinforced by the parallel element in the work of an artist he so greatly admired together, and with Naum Gabo, they edited *Circle*, a book celebrating the "constructive" aspects, as they saw them, of architecture, painting and sculpture.

It was a pity — though understandable given his dedication to his work and his privacy — that Nicholson should virtually never have given interviews, thus denying posterity his views and his wit. One of the few who broke the barriers was his third wife; they only went that she went to interview him at his St Ives home and never re-emerged. For several of his six children he became a remote figure. To the end it was his work which came first.

Roger Berthoud



Humphrey Spender's study of Ben Nicholson in the National Portrait Gallery

Fox recalled with an illustrious meet

Chatham House is gathering a wealth of international experience to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the British foreign secretary next month.

Michael Howard, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, and Lord Carrington will be among speakers in a series of lectures organized by the Royal Institute of International Affairs with the Foreign Office. The celebrations commemorate the appointment of Charles James Fox as Foreign Secretary on March 27, 1782. Before that, responsibility for Britain's foreign policy was divided between two secretaries of state. One looked after southern Europe and the colonies, the other the north.

The lectures, at Chatham House on Thursdays in March, will be chaired by Lord Harlech, James Callaghan, Lord Greenhill and Lord Home. Invitations have gone to all former foreign secretaries, including Harold Macmillan, Lord Butler, Lord (Michael) Stewart and David Owen.

Vodka at six

Egon Ronay, in his 1982 *Bulwer Pub Guide*, launched yesterday, properly celebrates the rise of the family pub. But he does not mention the little-known fact that, despite our allegedly tight

licensing laws, it is perfectly legal to buy your six-year-old a vodka so long as the child is in the pub garden.

The age limit for consumption of alcohol on licensed premises outside the bar is only five.

Wrong-footed

John Timpton of Radio 4's early morning *Today* programme is a very good presenter, but I would not fancy waltzing with him. Commenting on the rail strikes yesterday, he remarked that they had changed their tempo from quickstep — "on, on, off, off, on" — to waltz — "on, on, off, off".

He then went farther, and said they might next be waltzing "on, on, off, off, off". As we graduates of Arthur Murray realize a real railway waltz would go "on, on, off, off, off, off", but I hope none of this gives the railmen any more silly ideas.

Lift-off?

While Times Newspapers needs 600 employees to take off for the papers' future to be assured, the followers of the Maharishi Mahesh Yoga believe that if just another 500 inhabitants of Skelmersdale start levitating, the whole country will be rid of crime, strikes and every other nastiness. They claim statistical evidence showing that if only the square root of 1 per cent of the United Kingdom's population (about 750 people) practise the group dynamics of conscious-

THE TIMES DIARY

Iwould describe Sally Haywill as bouncy only I am too intimidated. As a special treat for Valentine's Day this ardent feminist who believes in fighting sexism — with both fists and any other weapons that come conveniently to hand — is publishing a book called *Squashed Flies*.

It is described as a collection of "witty, crushing and devastating replies to male abuse." Sample: "Why don't you pick on someone your own sex?" or (in a cinema,

seances outranking the well-published Secretary of State, Alexander Haig. On the other hand Haig was a general. Tower, the only enlisted reservist in Congress, is still officially a chief petty officer.

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With unemployment now double the level it was when James Callaghan left office, Barkley said that for the next election: "We might suggest the Conservatives play down unemployment." Political parties, he added, were different from the usual run of clients in that they do not ask for advice on the product. As an agency, "You just shut up and do the ads."

Weighty reading

Many things are sold by weight — it is illegal to sell Brussels sprouts any other way — so why not books? Michael Reynolds, deputy chairman of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board and founder of the Susan Reynolds Books chain, today starts selling books at 30p a pound at his Regent Street shop.

Reynolds believes that people are drawn to heavy, low-priced books irrespective of content. "One of our fastest-moving books was a big one called *Detailed Diagrams of the Brain of a Baboon* at 50p. People were snapping it up as a coffee table conversation piece because it looked impressive and cost so little".

What ails gladioli from Malta?

Something must, for of all the world's gladiolus, they are banned from Britain. The returning European traveller may bring unrestricted numbers of flower seeds but only five plants or parts of plants and no corms, rhizomes, fruit trees or potatoes. One may bring in only a small bunch of cut flowers, but there is a complete ban on forest trees

guards the Alaska oil pipeline, the nuclear test site outside Las Vegas, and the Cape Canaveral space centre from which the shuttle is launched.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A MATTER OF ORIGINS

Considering that the idea has been the stuff of baleful science fiction for many years, the first steps to intervene extraneously in the process of human fertilization have been received with reasonable calm. The adulterous overtones of artificial insemination by donor (AID) have not generally been fussed over, and the remarkable achievement of conceiving babies in glass dishes has been fussed over mainly for its sentimental significance. Several thousand couples have been enabled to have children through AID, and in vitro fertilization may help as many as a hundred this year.

Medical knowledge in this area is growing very fast. Before long doctors will have it in their power to manipulate the processes of conception in ways that raise far more troubling ethical questions than present practices. Some doctors, including the chairman of the British Medical Association's central ethical committee, which meets to discuss the subject today, have called for a complete halt to work in this field until society has had time to take stock.

Existing procedures, which have been used with animals for some years, do not carry medical risks of pose immediate ethical problems of an order that would warrant a ban. That would be a bitter blow to many couples who hope to benefit, and might lose their chance for ever if there was delay.

Nevertheless the general implications have not been fully considered either by doctors or by society at large. The BMA's comments will no doubt be helpful, as will the guidelines now being prepared by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, but this is not a matter to be left wholly to the doctors. There is now a strong case for a widely-based government inquiry, including a variety of lay

voices as well as medical ones, to the whole question. Whether or not any line of research should be halted in the meantime is a matter that the inquiry itself should be invited to address itself to, and make recommendations as necessary in an interim report.

In themselves, AID and in vitro fertilization are less unfamiliar in their implications than their scientific magic might suggest. The latter has as yet only been accomplished in Britain with the husband's sperm, but it could be done with donor sperm. A child conceived in this way, or by AID would technically be illegitimate, but in practice it is most unlikely that this would put it at any legal disadvantage. In animals, a fertilized ovum has already been implanted successfully in a different female, and the same technique may soon be applicable to human couples where a woman cannot herself produce ova capable of fertilization. In effect, this is a kind of pre-natal adoption, and it raises similar issues.

Adoption cannot take place without formal social reports and sanction by a court, but in AID it is left to the doctor's professional judgment to assess whether the aspirant parents are suitable. Parallel safeguards may not be necessary — adoption tends to be a far more complex matter psychologically. But adoptive children and AID children alike may in some cases feel a strong desire when they grow up to find out their real genetic origin, and to suffer greatly if they are prevented from doing so. Since 1975 the law has given the former the right to know, though it has not made it easy, and a minority take advantage of this. It seems right that AID children should be able to do the same.

This implies that the identity of donors should be recorded, though on a confidential basis. There is no

requirement for this at the moment. A record would also help to overcome fears of accidental incest, similar to those which sometimes exist with adoptions. The risk of serious genetic ill-effects from such an event would be remote, but precautions would nevertheless make reassurance available both to the individual and the public.

Whether statutory requirements are necessary, or a code of practice for doctors, the inquiry may consider.

Further ahead, the ethical problems become stranger and graver. Freezing of genetic material and cloning (or division of fertilized eggs in an unlimited number of genetically identical individuals) are already part of existing procedures, but with further development they would make highly bizarre eugenic tinkering feasible. It is not desirable to ban useful practices outright merely because they could be used in offensive or dangerous ways, but there may be a case for regulation.

A fertilized egg is potentially a person. It ought not to be regarded as dispensable matter on the same basis as sperm or an egg that has not been fertilized. There is no clear consensus in society about the rights that such an entity possesses, or at what stage it acquires them, as may be seen from disagreements about abortion. Embryos fertilized in the laboratory would be of enormous value as material for scientific research. In the case of abortion, it is widely accepted that the interests of a mother can override her foetus's claim to life. Research of benefit not to one individual but to the whole community might arguably be said to have at least an equal claim. But the idea is deeply repugnant to many. It is time for a calm and thorough debate over which of the many strange possibilities now opening up are acceptable, which need further controls, and which are unacceptable.

The possibility of the use of donor semen and donor ova, and the subsequent implantation into the uterus of a patient with whom there is no genetic relationship, opens an entirely new field. To our knowledge this has not been done so far, but workers in the field of extra corporeal fertilization have stated their intention of doing so. It is to this matter and the storage of ova and semen for the same ends, or for research, that the most urgent attention should be focused. To delay could lead to a fait accompli with such questions as the rights of the foetus, the genetic parents, and the recipient woman left unanswered. The status of an ovum before and after fertilization must be resolved.

We, the National Health Service consultants, are not involved in the programme of extra corporeal fertilization currently being undertaken at this hospital.

Whilst we would welcome guidelines from the Royal College, we feel that the fundamental issues involved are so important that the medical profession should not attempt to handle them on their own. It is to be hoped that religious leaders, lawyers, politicians, and all those with a serious concern for ethical and moral welfare, will share in this responsibility and make their views known.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. F. CHALK,
VALERIE M. THOMPSON,
LUPA EPSZTEIN,
The Royal Free Hospital,
Pond Street,
Hampstead, NW3.

From Mr S. P. Morse
Sir, In your editorial, "Sell! Sell! Sell!" (February 8), you seem to equate nationalization with bad management, particularly in relation to British Airways.

Bad management is often a result of human inadequacy and usually has little to do with the "ownership" of the enterprise. One might indeed say that in nationalized industries the results of such bad management as occurs are not visited to the same extent on customers (such as Laker ticket holders) or staff (Laker pilots) who have had absolutely no responsibility for that management.

Also the idea that Laker,

CHEMICAL ARSENALS

Chemical warfare is rightly held in abhorrence. President Reagan's request to Congress for funds to re-activate a chemical weapons programme will deepen misgivings where they are already felt in Western Europe about the American rearmament drive. Chemical weapons have not been manufactured in the United States since 1969, nor are they likely to be in the immediate future. On the other hand, a nerve gas plant is already under construction in Arkansas, and what is "developed" could without much difficulty be "produced" and subsequently deployed. Since — as with tactical nuclear weapons — the envisaged battleground is Western Europe, any such suggestion could lead to a further rise in European neutralist sentiment, together with the anti-Americanism on which it feeds.

The policy can be justified if — as Mr Reagan has suggested — it is intended to make the use of chemical weapons less rather than more likely, and if possible to abolish them altogether. The programme outlined by President Reagan is partly defensive, in that it calls for better protective clothing against possible Warsaw Pact attacks. The Reagan programme is also intended to replace existing stockpiles, which are deteriorating and will shortly become more dangerous to their possessors than to potential aggressors. But the President clearly wants to go further, as his proposal for the development of a new binary nerve gas indicates. His intention is to enlarge the American chemi-

cal warfare capability to the point where it forces the Russians to negotiate reductions in their own substantial chemical arsenals.

There are no reliable estimates of the Soviet capability, and American charges that the Russians have used poisonous gases either directly (in Afghanistan) or through surrogates (in South East Asia) have yet to be proved. But the Soviet Union has extensive stockpiles of chemical weapons, and Soviet troops are systematically trained in their use. Nerve gas is a peculiarly vile weapon, resulting in death through paralysis, and its effects could scarcely be confined to the battlefield. Much the same might be said of nuclear weapons, tactical or otherwise, and death from nuclear blast and radiation and death from nerve gas poisoning are horrific in about equal measure. But whereas a balance of sorts exists in the nuclear field, there is no deterrent at present to the Soviet use of chemical weapons beyond the use of nuclear weapons themselves, which in the Nato doctrine of "flexible response" is conceived of as a last resort.

To try and match the Russians gas for gas would be to risk a new and deadly arms race, and would in any case presuppose detailed knowledge of the Soviet capability. But the Russians must be made aware that the West has not only the ability to protect itself against gas but also the capacity to develop and deploy chemical weapons of its own. Otherwise the Russians can have only themselves to blame.

Art and tax debts

From Mr George Levy
Sir, It is greatly to be hoped that the dire forebodings in the art world accurately reported by Miss Frances Gibb (February 3) will turn out to be without foundation when the Government's response is announced to certain constructive proposals of the select committee urging administrative reforms to encourage retention in this country of our cultural heritage.

One of the most serious fears is to the effect that the Treasury, and through it the Inland Revenue, are resisting the committee's far-seeing recommendation (surely supported by the Minister for the Arts) that the terms fixing the amount of tax satisfied by the statutorily tax-free surrender of works of art in discharge of tax liabilities should now be made more attractive to those faced with heavy capital transfer tax demands.

The eyes of the art world will be on Mr Nicholas Ridley.

Financial Secretary to the Treasury, when he is questioned by the select committee on February 24, will be on that occasion forbear to play his department's automatic, unreasoning role of "abominable no-man"?

Miss Gibb pertinently drew attention to the existence of the scale of funding now becoming available to foreign embassies which could induce British debtors to ignore facilities which, though they exist in legal theory, are nevertheless stultified in practice by administrative discouragement. But is not this a situation which is likely to meet with a (doubtless unconfessed) welcome from the Inland Revenue, with its evident vested interest in our heritage being dispersed overseas for taxable cash at the highest prices in the open market?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J LEVY, Director,
H. Blairman and Sons,
119 Mount Street, WI.
February 4

University challenge

From Professor P. C. Bayley
Sir, The Vice-Chancellor of London University (February 2) wrote only of Britain's need of universities in terms of their contribution to industry, science, technology, management, law and medicine, and the literary sciences and arts. He signified his intent to mention Humane Letters and the Polite Arts to which his own distinguished academic career has been devoted. Whether this inference may be drawn or not, the inference may be drawn, and ought to be drawn, and I as one who professes a non-scientific, non-technological subject would strongly urge it — that a beleaguered industrial nation really cannot and ought not go on maintaining so marked a mandarin emphasis as Britain does.

Yours faithfully,
P. C. BAYLEY,
70 Winram Place,
St Andrews,
Fife.

Safeguards on insemination

From Mr P. A. F. Chalk and others

Sir, The letter from Dr Snowden and Professor Mitchell (February 4) brings into the open the concern which surrounds the establishment of foetal embryo banks and the freezing of human semen and ova for future use in human reproduction or research in embryo development, etc. It is important, however, to recognize those areas of established treatment which need to be safeguarded.

The collection, freezing, and use of donor semen is an important and established practice where the male partner is azoospermic. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have given guidelines which have been valuable in ensuring that the highest ethical and professional standards are observed in conditions of complete confidentiality.

The *in vitro* fertilization technique pioneered by Steptoe and Edwards using semen and ova from a husband and wife has provided a means whereby married couples can achieve a pregnancy which is genetically theirs when the normal processes of fertilization and implantation are rendered impossible by the complete and irreversible occlusion of the fallopian tubes. It would be sad if a moratorium on the retrieval of ova should interfere with this valuable form of treatment.

The possibility of the use of donor semen and donor ova, and the subsequent implantation into the uterus of a patient with whom there is no genetic relationship, opens an entirely new field. To our knowledge this has not been done so far, but workers in the field of extra corporeal fertilization have stated their intention of doing so. It is to this matter and the storage of ova and semen for the same ends, or for research, that the most urgent attention should be focused. To delay could lead to a fait accompli with such questions as the rights of the foetus, the genetic parents, and the recipient woman left unanswered. The status of an ovum before and after fertilization must be resolved.

We, the National Health Service consultants, are not involved in the programme of extra corporeal fertilization currently being undertaken at this hospital.

Whilst we would welcome guidelines from the Royal College, we feel that the fundamental issues involved are so important that the medical profession should not attempt to handle them on their own. It is to be hoped that religious leaders, lawyers, politicians, and all those with a serious concern for ethical and moral welfare, will share in this responsibility and make their views known.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. F. CHALK,
VALERIE M. THOMPSON,
LUPA EPSZTEIN,
The Royal Free Hospital,
Pond Street,
Hampstead, NW3.

From Mr S. P. Morse
Sir, In your editorial, "Sell! Sell! Sell!" (February 8), you seem to equate nationalization with bad management, particularly in relation to British Airways.

Bad management is often a result of human inadequacy and usually has little to do with the "ownership" of the enterprise.

One might indeed say that in nationalized industries the results of such bad management as occurs are not visited to the same extent on customers (such as Laker ticket holders) or staff (Laker pilots) who have had absolutely no responsibility for that management.

Also the idea that Laker,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The British view of enterprise

From Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative)

Sir, It has been a widely held view, at least until recently, that one significant measure and cause of the difference between the resilience of the American economy and the sluggishness of the economy was to be found in the respective national attitudes to entrepreneurs. Most Americans seem to take pride in their success and regard them as exemplars of what can be achieved, to the benefit of society by individuals fired with courage and vision.

In Britain the dominant response is a mean and aggressively egalitarian hostility to anyone who dared to try to lift himself out of the dreary mud-flats of the corporatism state.

One very bright spot in the gloom of the Laker collapse has been the strength of the demonstration that most of us are now imbued with a totally different spirit. The great majority have shown their deep admiration and affection for Sir Freddie Laker — wards, mistakes and all.

It is the clearest possible indication that the penny has, at last, dropped. There is now wide understanding that economic growth and development cannot be left to the state, but will only be produced in a society which allows entrepreneurs to flourish.

The Government must seize the opportunity created by this mood and press on with the liberalisation of the economy.

If we were to achieve this daunting objective, and Sir Freddie is just the kind of man who could carry his employees with him, either the airline would be profitable or the Government would be in a position to make it so by getting tough with those countries whose airlines could be seen to be in receipt of subsidies on United Kingdom routes. After all, it is these subsidised airlines, including our own British Airways, which have grounded Laker Airways. It was not lack of efficiency.

A revitalized and profitable BA, with Sir Freddie as its boss, would be a natural investment for tens of thousands of people who would not have been able to visit distant lands without his vision and resolve and this has been well illustrated by wide public support shown for him in recent days.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HOLLAND,
7-8 Warwick Street, WI.
February 8.

From Mr D. C. Damant

Sir, Your leader on the collapse of Laker Airways does not, I think, go to the heart of the matter. Air fares across the Atlantic and on many other routes are too low. The fact that cartel arrangements may in some places protect inefficiency does not take away from the fact that attempt to lower fares has produced revenues inadequate to cover the real cost of the considerable capital employed in the purchase of expensive aircraft.

In a world of scarce resources, the greatest benefits are obtained by the efficient use of capital, not by its careless consumption. The Laker affair shows that one cannot fly in the face of reality forever.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. DAMANT
Garrard House,
Gresham Street, EC2.
February 8.

Unions and the media

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham, West (Labour)

Sir, The Aslef dispute has highlighted yet again the bias in the press treatment of industrial relations. It took "blacking" by Aslef members at Kings Cross to secure a right of reply to *The Sun's* front-page and uncensored allegations of "fiddling and cheating" by railmen. Many deplored the blacking, but did any of them also demand that a right of reply be formally instituted so that it does not have to be enforced by such means in future?

It is not as though the problem is new. At the TUC's Day of Action on May 14, 1980, calculations show that Fleet Street's five tabloid dailies (*the Express*, *Mail*, *Sun*, *Star* and *Mirror*) allocated 2,209 column inches to hysterical opposition to it, and only 254 to stating what was to happen in a non-derogatory fashion. Not a single inch of 334 given to editorial consideration of the day was other than hostile.

Phraseology like the *Express* reference to the "unlected Lenin Murray and his bully boys" (who, by the way, elected the paper's editor, Derek Jameson?) was commonplace. Not a single feature appeared offering space to any of the leaders of the demonstration to explain why they had called it and what they were trying to achieve.

Such examples are legion at the time of every major industrial dispute. It is high time newspaper proprietors accepted that freedom of the press does not mean a right of reply. It is not as though the problem is new. At the TUC's Day of Action on May 14, 1980, calculations show that Fleet Street's five tabloid dailies (*the Express*, *Mail*, *Sun*, *Star* and *Mirror*) allocated 2,209 column inches to hysterical opposition to it, and only 254 to stating what was to happen in a non-derogatory fashion. Not a single inch of 334 given to editorial consideration of the day was other than hostile.

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Such examples are legion at the time of every major industrial dispute.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL MEACHER,
House of Commons.

February 7.

SDP and socialism

From Mr R. G. Sawyer

Sir, In case your readers should believe that the Reverend Martin Camroux and Mr Lacey (February 2) represent a widespread internal view of the SDP, may I suggest that they are in fact suffering from a severe attack of "future shock"?

They make it clear that their only motive for joining the SDP was the accelerating process of dissolution within the Labour Party. It is obvious that this factor will have motivated many recruits, but it has always been equally obvious that the majority of SDP members never conceived the new party to be any sort of modification of the Labour Party, be it Mark 4 or 24.

Your correspondents' belief

that adherence to selected political stances of the past is the only legitimate path to truth and social justice merely emphasizes their mistake in thinking that the SDP was to be a reformed version of a discredited model. It is their determination to stick to the clichés of the past that is divisive, not the search for consensus.

None of us believes that the class divisions of centuries can be healed easily, but seeking agree-

Dangers of lead in petrol

From the Managing Director of the Associated Octet Company Limited

Sir, Your leader of today's date (February 9) appears to indicate that some new medical evidence has been found upon which your remarks about lead and mental health could be based.

The fact remains that no new medical evidence has been produced to support the original interpretation of Needham's work published in 1978. While not criticising the quality of the results, the interpretation placed on those results is still open to question, and in fact was rejected by the *Newsham* <i



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 9: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Her Majesty, Patron, and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited the Headquarters of the British Veterinary Association, 7, Mansfield Street, W1 to mark the Centenary of the Association.

The Queen and His Royal Highness, having been received upon arrival by the President (Doctor T. E. Gibson), toured the Headquarters. The Queen unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Duchess of Grafton, Sir William Herries and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, accompanied by The Princess of Wales, this morning presided at a meeting of The Prince's Council at 10, Buckingham Gate, London SW1 and afterwards gave a luncheon at Buckingham Palace for members of the Council.

His Royal Highness, Patron, this evening attended a reception to mark the end of the International Year of Disabled People at 32, Chesham Place, London SW1.

The Hon. Edward Adeane was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Honorary Air Commodore, this afternoon at Gatcombe Park received Group Captain J. Hardstaff on relinquishing command and Group Captain C. Evans on assuming command of Royal Air Force Lyneham.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 9: Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Peter Lewis today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

THATCHER HOUSE LODGE
February 9: Princess Alexandra this evening visited the Charterhouse-in-Southwark Mission, Crosby Row, London SE1.

Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

THATCHER HOUSE LODGE
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Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

A stained-glass window in memory of Field Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker will be dedicated at a service in the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst on Sunday, June 20, 1982 at 11.00 am.

Luncheons

Brewers' Company

The Master of the Brewers' Company, Sir Keith Showering, the Warden, and the court of assistants entertained the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs and other guests at a luncheon held at Brewers' Hall yesterday.

Women's Advertising Club of London

Mr Barry Humphries was the guest speaker at a luncheon given by the Women's Advertising Club of London at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. Miss Sue Stoessl, president, was in the chair.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Sir Nigel Fisher, MP, deputy chairman, UK branch, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, was host at a luncheon given yesterday in the House of Commons by the executive committee of the branch in honour of the High Commissioner for Zimbabwe.

Receptions

HM Government

The engagement is announced between Philip, eldest son of Mr and Mrs K. Appleby, of Bassett, Southampton, and the late Miss Kenneth Appleby and Charlotte, daughter of Lady Kenya Tatton-Brown and the late John Tatton-Brown, of Westgate Wood, Chichester.

Mr M. Morton and Miss E. Ballie

The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of the late Mr W. Morton, and Mrs Morton, of Wootton, Petersborough, and Elizabeth, second daughter of Major the Hon. Ron Wootton, of Wootton Hall, New Milton, Hampshire.

Mr A. J. M. Sinclair and Miss J. Faulding

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Sir Ian and Lady Sinclair, of Wimborne, London, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Faulding, of Chelmsford, Essex.

Mr R. Y. Anthony and Miss M. R. Wenley

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs Ywan Anthony, of Solihull, and Mary, daughter of Mr Paul Wenley, of Canterbury, and Mrs Daphne Garwood, of Solihull.

Mr D. S. Bowring and Miss J. L. Bannister

The engagement is announced between Duncan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Bowring of Halton Park, Buntingford, and Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Bannister, of Coniston Hall, Skipton, North Yorkshire.

Mr J. D. Byers Graves and Miss M. E. Black

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of Mrs Adeline Byers Graves and the late Mr Cyril St John Byers Graves, of Totteridge, London, and Mary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Black, of Moseley, Birmingham.

Mr A. St. J. Price and Miss D. M. Lawford

The engagement is announced between Aubrey St John Price (John), elder son of the late Major Trevor Price and Mrs Kathleen Price, of The Garden Cottage, Doughton, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, and Diana, daughter of Roundhay, Leeds, and Mary, daughter of the late Mr W. P. Crone, FRCS, and Dr A. A. Crone, of Headington, Oxford, and Mrs C. Clark, of Ruislip, and Mr D. J. Piper.

Service dinner

No 18 Group

A guest night for the regional and station commanders and staff of No 18 Group and their wives and their wives' mothers held last night in the Officers' Mess, RAF Bentwaters.

Priory Group Captain M. M. Dalton presided and Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss, Air Officer Commanding No 18 Group, also present. Among those present were Air Vice-Marshal D. C. A. Lloyd J. F. G. Howe and C. A. Cheshworth.

Birthdays today

Mr Harold Macmillan, OM, the former Prime Minister, who is 88.

Mr Larry Adler, 84; Dame Judith Anderson, 84; Lieutenant-General Sir Nigel Bagnall, 55; Miss Olwyn Bayley, 46; Mrs Elisabeth Carson, 90; Sir Charles Collins, 95; Dr Alexander Comfort, 62; Mr John Gilpin, 52; Dr Walter Hamilton, 74; Field Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton, 86; Sir Alister Hardy, 86; Professor J. Heslop-Harrison, 62; Lord Milne, 73; Lord Orr-Ewing, 70.

Lord Cayzer

The life barony conferred on Sir William Nicholas Cayzer has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Cayzer, of St Mary Axe in the City of London.

1982 IS THE 21ST YEAR SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF HELP THE AGED

In our 21st year will you please be even more generous in your giving - it will be put to good and practical use, without delay.

Please help rescue one potential victim:

£15 is a real help towards a Day Centre.

£60 provides help for a Geriatric Medical Day Hospital.

£150 perpetuates a loved name on the Dedication Plaque of a Day Centre.

1982 IS THE 21ST YEAR SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF HELP THE AGED

In our 21st year will you please be even more generous in your giving - it will be put to good and practical use, without delay.

Please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T3, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ. (No stamp needed).

CORRECTION

The photograph on the Court Page yesterday was of Landseer's "The Monarch of the Glen" and not "The Stag at Bay".

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back to grow in his studio. In his garden at Bentham End, near Hadleigh, he accomplished what to less fortunate gardeners seemed near-miracles in keeping and increasing plants that are generally very difficult to grow in our climate. Bulbs were one of his specialities, and many of his rare tulips, crocus and colchicum species he had collected himself. It was a real garden, not a specialist's, one in which all sorts of odd and beautiful things had been gradually brought together, observed and thoroughly enjoyed.

Even in old age he still contrived to do everything himself but now the great un hurried, effective, taking time off now and then to sun himself among the bushes in the hottest corner like a little, elderly, contented cat. His cat that placidly smoked a pipe - smiled readily, and regarded life with a good deal of tolerant amusement.

He had exhibited in

Chicago, Brussels, New York, Paris and London over the years and there were retrospective exhibitions at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, in 1968 and at the New Grafton Gallery, London, in 1975.

He was unmarried.

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Focus on ZIMBABWE

Despite constitutional barriers and far from overwhelming support for his ZANU-PF party at the independence elections in 1980 (see chart), the Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe maintains that one-party rule is only a matter of timing. Michael Hornsby assesses his efforts to win over all sections of the population and, in a second article, his schizophrenic relationship with South Africa.

The reopening of the parliamentary assembly in Salisbury last month after the Christmas break was a surprisingly familiar spectacle. The green leather benches, white-wigged speaker and ritual exchanges of insults between MPs all suggested that the Westminster model bequeathed by the Lancaster House agreement to black-ruled Zimbabwe was alive and well. But the trappings were deceptive. For Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, has set course for something much closer to the black African convention of a one-party republic in what has been officially named "the year of transformation".

So far as Mr Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party are concerned, as he explained in an interview in his Salisbury office, the goal is not in dispute. It is simply a question of when it can be achieved. The "when" is, of course, all important, not least because of the restraints built into the Lancaster House constitution, and the obvious danger of trying to push ahead without the full support of the country's other major political force, Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front (PF), formerly ZAPU.

After dropping the subject for some months, Mr Mugabe revived the one-party state issue during a populist "meet-the-people" tour of rural areas last month in terms that sent tremors through Western embassies in Salisbury and drew an angry response from Mr Nkomo who evidently suspected an attempt to hustle him into a merger of his party with Mr Mugabe's.

In private conversation, Mr Mugabe uses much more moderate language. There is, he insists, no question of enforcing a one-party state, which must come about by the "democratic will of the people" (a referendum is mentioned) but he is convinced that Zimbabwe, at its present stage of reconstruction and development cannot afford the luxury of multi-party squabbling, and that political differences should be worked out "under the umbrellas" of a single political structure. This is a familiar argument in Africa.

It is obviously of concern to Mr Mugabe that, despite winning 57 of the 80 common roll seats at the independence elections, he does not have a truly national base. ZANU's support having been built essentially on a Shona-speaking constituency in the north and east. The Shona group accounts for some 80 per

cent of the population, but has a history of clan rivalry and political fragmentation, whereas the 20 per cent of the population in the south and west who are Ndebele speakers and who form the base of Mr Nkomo's support, have always been much more united.

The attractions for Mr Mugabe of bringing Mr Nkomo into the fold are thus evident. Mr Nkomo himself is in a more difficult position. If he continues to play the game of conventional party politics, he appears to be condemned to be a permanent minority (unless he can extend his support to dissident Shona elements), but if he accepts the offer of union with ZANU he would be in danger of being submerged and losing even the base that he has. Better, he may calculate, to stay in coalition (albeit in a non-job as minister without portfolio), retain a separate political identity, and hope to improve his position at the next elections in 1985.

There is a long history of distrust between Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo dating back to the early years of the nationalist movement, and Mr Nkomo views with deep suspicion the formation of the Fifth Army Brigade, a body of 5,000 men drawn almost exclusively from the ranks of former ZANU guerrillas loyal to Mr Mugabe.

On the face of it, the constitutional hurdle in the way of a one-party state looks pretty insurmountable for the time being. The right of political association is one of the entrenched clauses of the Lancaster House settlement, and for 10 years can only be amended by a unanimous vote of the 100 MPs in the Assembly. The 20 MPs of the Republican (formerly Rhodesian) Front party of Mr Ian Smith would obviously block any change, even if Mr Nkomo's PF, which holds 20 of the common roll seats, and Bishop Muzorewa's UANC, which holds three, did not.

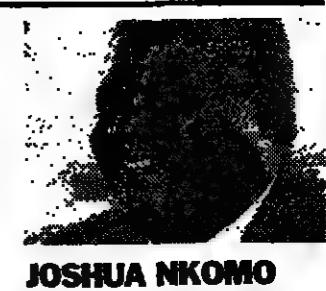
The whites are guaranteed 20 seats only until 1987. After that might be easier to muster near-unanimity for the one-party state idea, provided Mr Nkomo could be brought round, but will the hotheads in the ZANU-PF central committee wait that long?

Any attempt to ride rough-shod over the entrenched clauses of the Lancaster House constitution would obviously alarm Zimbabwe's friends in the West, who stumped up some £1,000m in aid over three years at the

continued on page II



ROBERT MUGABE
Prime Minister and leader of
ZANU-PF
57 seats
(62.9 per cent of votes)



JOSHUA NKOMO
Leader of the Patriotic Front
20 seats
(24.1 per cent)



BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA
Former Prime Minister of
Zimbabwe Rhodesia and leader of
the United African Council
3 seats
(8.2 per cent)



IAN SMITH
Former Prime Minister of
Rhodesia and leader of the
Republican (formerly Rhodesian)
Front; all 20 seats on
white voters' roll
(includes Asians and mixed races)

The balance of power

Both Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, leaders of ZANU-PF and the Patriotic Front respectively, regularly denounce tribalism and assert that observers see too much in the divide between the Shona and Ndebele peoples. With ZANU-PF dominant in the east and the Patriotic Front supreme in the west, it is nevertheless still a potent force in national politics. Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African Council became the major-party of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia administration, drawing on the same regional support which subsequently went to Mr Mugabe.

The last serious clash occurred a year ago in Bulawayo when fighting broke out between three Zippie and Zanu battalions after an incident in a beer-hall, and was only quelled by the intervention of old Rhodesian Army units and the White-piloted air force. More than 300 guerrillas and civilians may have been killed.

That blood-letting seems to have served as a salutary lesson to all concerned, particularly the Zippie forces which came off worst (though the discovery last weekend of large illegal arms caches on Zippie-owned farms suggests that some at least of Mr Nkomo's men are still hoping to even the score). The main problem now is reducing the army to a more manageable and less costly size of about 40,000 men so as to release more funds for pressing social reforms.

Under pressure to satisfy the expectations aroused by independence, Mr Mugabe's Government has pressed ahead with egalitarian social reforms such as free primary schooling and free medical care for the lower paid.

There is a lack of certainty about the Government's intentions on public ownership. So far the Government has limited itself to buying out the previous South African majority holding in the country's new owners, to taking over one of the country's three banks, and to acquiring a 42 per cent share in the country's biggest pharmaceutical company.

However, a Bill now before parliament would also give the Government control of the marketing of minerals, and supply 32 per cent of its imports. It is position of dominance, strongly reinforced during the period of UDI, when other trade avenues were closed off or restricted. South African investment, particularly in mining, is of critical importance.

Zimbabwe is also crucially dependent on South Africa's road and rail system and ports, through which

before UDI and sanctions (as a net exporter not only of food but also manufactured products, services and some capital goods) are hampered not least by the persistent balance of payments difficulties of these countries.

There are better hopes of reducing dependence on South Africa's transport system and thereby also opening up possibilities for other landlocked countries in the region whose lines of communication pass through Zimbabwe. The natural route for Zimbabwe's trade is through the Mozambique ports of Beira and Maputo.

Although the rail-lines to Beira and Maputo were reopened in 1980, the two ports are still handling less than 20 per cent of Zimbabwe's trade. Beira needs heavy dredging, can only take ships of less than 25,000 tons and has no container

facility. Maputo, though bigger and better equipped, is still hampered by the loss of Portuguese technicians, and a lack of telex and telephone links.

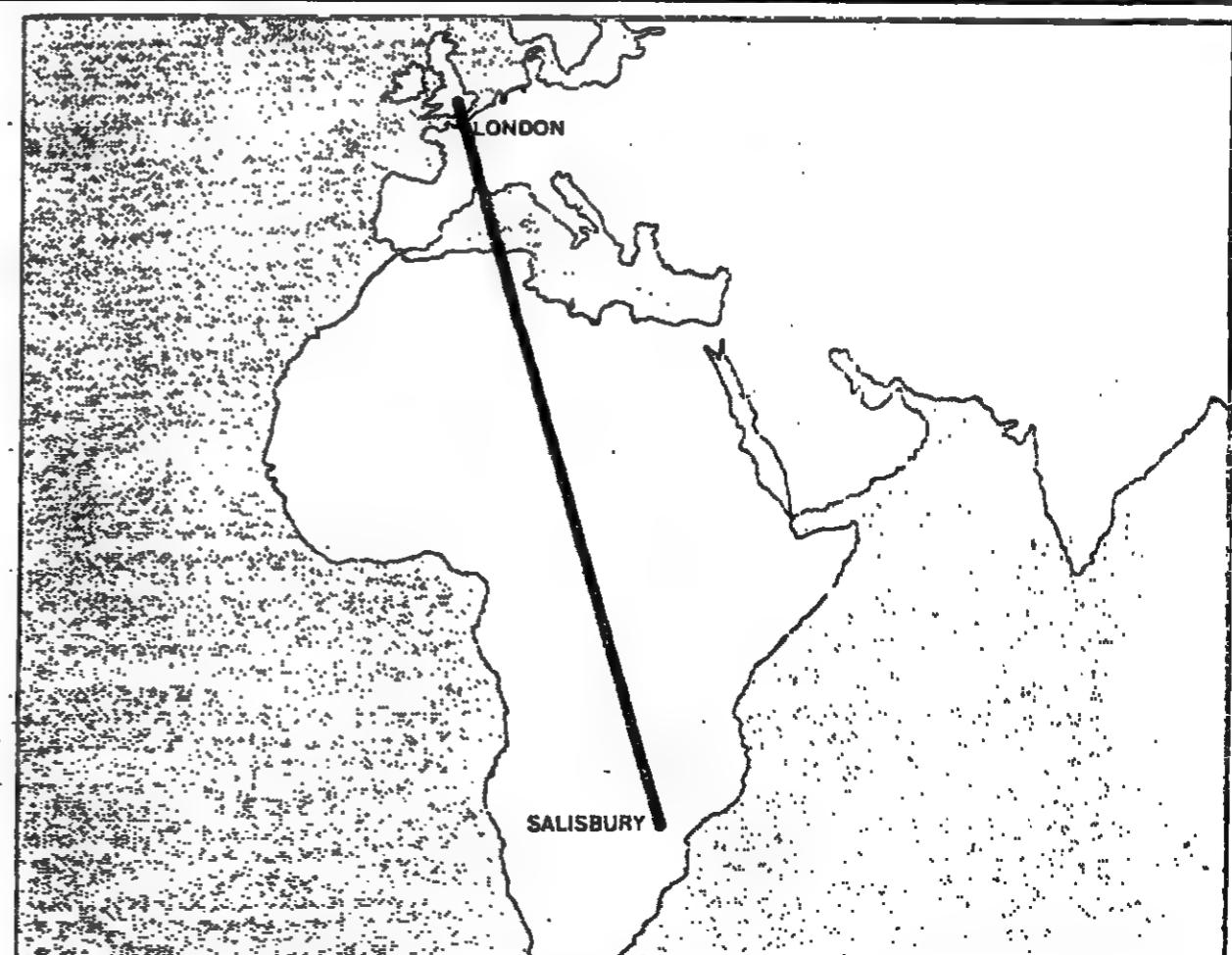
This helps to explain Zimbabwe's strong commitment to SADCC (Southern African Development Coordination Conference), which unites it with eight other black states in the region—Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia—in an endeavour to promote self-reliance and reduce dependence on South Africa.

Zimbabwe's potential as the industrial engine-room and granary of the SADCC grouping (it is the only independent state with a food surplus) is sufficient cause for the deep dislike it arouses in Pretoria, which had hoped of luring its neighbours into

enough disclaim any interest in mischievous masking of this kind.

One target of the insurgents, The Lonrho-owned oil pipeline from Beira to Umtali, has now been expensively renovated, and at full capacity should easily be able to handle all Zimbabwe's diesel and petrol requirements. Provided agreement can be reached on a fee for its use. Running for 30 miles of its length above ground, it remains, however, very vulnerable to attack.

The pipeline would remove one element of Zimbabwe's dependence on South Africa, for the rest, any over-hasty attempt to reduce trade and transport links on its giant neighbour would cause great economic disruption with ripple effects on foreign investment and the rate of exodus of white skills.



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Railways of Zimbabwe multi-million dollar electrification

programme and have advised and provided Export Credit and

Euro-currency finance to a number of leading Zimbabwe

Companies for development projects.

For further information contact

Barclays Bank of Zimbabwe Limited, or Regional Manager — Africa
Barclay House, Stanley Avenue. Barclays Bank International Limited
P.O. Box 1279, Salisbury 54 Lombard Street
Zimbabwe London EC3P 3AH
Telephone 706301

Zimbabwe's chances of reducing trade links with South Africa and restoring the kind of commercial relationship with neighbouring black states which it had

The boom in the first year of independence has subsided. Stephen Taylor takes stock of the economic realities today and then a more detailed look at the clouds over the mining industry and farming prospects.

Weak performance blights early bright economic prospects

The boisterous real growth of the economy in the first year of independence has subsided. Stephen Taylor takes stock of the economic realities today and then a more detailed look at the clouds over the mining industry and farming prospects.

Agriculture was a mainstay last year. The record maize crop and the highest prices ever paid in Zimbabwe for tobacco were principal features of a bumper harvest which saw the value of crops increase by 70 per cent on 1981.

Manufacturing output continued to grow although there were indications that it was levelling off. The most recent figures show that in the third quarter of last year production grew 8.4 per cent on 1980. The rate was higher in the first and second quarters and the overall figure for the first nine months showed an increase of 11.5 per cent. Transport equipment showed the greatest growth followed by clothing, footwear and chemicals.

Package brings in price freeze

Prospects for 1982 are affected by the foreign currency cutbacks — 10 per cent for the present quarter following the 15 per cent reduction for the final quarter last year, and the new minimum wage providing for an increase from Z\$85 to Z\$105 for industrial, commercial and mining workers. The wages are part of a package announced in December which constitute the Government's response to the Riddell commission of inquiry into incomes, prices and conditions of service.

The measures went further than the Riddell proposals which had envisaged a cautious rise over three years to 90 per cent of the poverty datum line. The government package also brought in a price freeze until March, prohibited retrenchment and placed a limit on the increase that could be paid to higher earners.

Many employees in commerce and industry were already being paid the new minimum and the effect will be felt less there than in the mining sector.

At the same time government spending, 66 per cent of recurrent, has substantially increased and the latest review by the Reserve Bank contains a warning to both Government and the private sector that strenuous efforts should be made to relate

growth in expenditure to levels "more in line with the expansion of the economy's productive capacity".

Mining experienced a miserable year, its difficulties stemming from low international market prices for minerals, and the total value of production for the first 10 months of 1981 was Z\$319m, a fall of 7.4 per cent on 1980.

Mining companies are further bothered by the Government's intention to set up a minerals marketing authority which will be responsible for selling all Zimbabwe's minerals apart from gold.

A boom in consumer demand last year which outstripped availability and higher domestic costs led to a sharp increase in inflation. By the end of the third quarter it stood at 17.4 per cent — 2 per cent up on the previous quarter — compared with 8 per cent over 1980. At the same time retail sales were 43 per cent up on 1980 levels.

There were implications for the Government's three-year economic development plan, *Growth with Equity*, published last year, which is based on an anticipated real growth rate of 8 per cent.

The recent report of the Economic Intelligence Unit

believes that that rate is unlikely to be maintained although between 6 and 6.5 per cent is possible, provided problems of skill shortages and transport are curbed.

A restricted growth of exports, resulting from those problems, set against high import levels (principally machinery, transport equipment, industrial raw materials and liquid fuels) saw a trade surplus of Z\$109m for the first eight months of 1980 turned into a visible deficit of Z\$49m for the same period last year.

In spite of the various measures being taken to reduce the deficit the Reserve Bank sees little prospect of a return to a surplus before the international economy shows a meaningful recovery.

Meanwhile the deficit in government spending is being financed mainly by foreign borrowing. During the first quarter of the present financial year government spending amounted to Z\$364.5m compared with Z\$299.7m for the same period of the previous year. Budgeted expenditure for the present financial year is Z\$2,006m of which 58.5 per

cent will come from diverse taxation, 9.2 per cent from other revenue and 32.3 per cent from borrowing. Of the total spending 66 per cent will be for recurrent expenditure, 15 per cent for debt servicing and 19 per cent for capital investment.

South Africa is by far Zimbabwe's most important trading partner, buying more than a fifth of all the country's exports, excluding gold, and supplying more than a quarter of its imports, excluding oil. Pretoria's decision last year to scrap the preferential trade agreement which has existed between the two countries since 1971 consequently carried ominous implications — for manufacturers of furniture, textiles, clothing and electronic goods in particular. It now seems that there is agreement in principle to renew the agreement but the terms are unlikely to be as favourable to Zimbabwe as in the past.

Britain is the second most important trading partner followed by West Germany, the United States and other EEC countries. However, the Government is keen to diversify its trade and a visit by the Prime Minister to three Balkan states last year is expected to lead to increasing trade with East Europe.

Concern over the longer strategy

One matter which remains unresolved and which continues to give rise to concern is the Government's long-term strategy towards the private sector. The authorities have frequently stated that they do not seek to nationalise, only to participate in strategic industries, but three instances last year in which the Government was associated with takeovers did not reassure the anxious. In the first two, involving the press and Zimbank, South African interests were acquired for such strategic reasons. The third involved the takeover of a pharmaceutical company.

With further pressures around the corner the year ahead should be crucial in setting once and for all the Government's fundamental economic course.

Although economists believe that Zimbabwe's diverse mining industry can look forward to sustained growth from next year until 1985, it is now, in the words of a senior official, "going through a period of distress" stemming from declining production and low prices for key minerals.

The statistics speak for the importance of the industry: more than 40 minerals are mined, producing more than 50 per cent of foreign exchange earnings. They include major deposits of gold, chrome and asbestos; indeed, Zimbabwe is the second largest chrome producer and has the largest high-grade deposits in the world.

Other important minerals are nickel, copper, coal, iron, silver and tin, and although most deposits of these are low grade they are generally contained within small areas, making the mining operation flexible and low in investment cost.

Metalurgists believe that detailed surveys would reveal further resources, and one recent estimate put the total mineral wealth of the country at more than Z\$40,000m.

Against these impressive figures must be set a gloomy picture, "last year's record world" prices which has carried over from 1981 and looks like extending well into the year. At the same time anxiety in the industry is high over the implications of the Minerals Marketing Bill which has been approved by Parliament.

The year of independence was a good one with the value of mineral production reaching Z\$414m, a record for the eighteenth successive year. What that figure does not disclose, however, is the

steady decline in production volume which by February last year was 22 per cent down on the peak in 1976.

The downward trend was particularly noticeable last year. By October, the last month for which figures are available, production was valued at only Z\$319m and one informed estimate puts total 1981 production at Z\$375m.

A key factor was the loss of skilled staff, a national problem but one which has had a particularly deleterious effect on mining because, says Mr Roy Lander, president of the Chamber of Mines, "we mine a pretty low grade product and we must be efficient to be profitable."

Expanded training programmes are not expected to bring much relief this year, and costs will go up by more than 20 per cent. Interest rates have doubled and Mr Lander says the increase in the minimum wage from Z\$85 a month to Z\$105 will

After a record season which exceeded the wildest hopes of both farmers and government, agriculture, on which 75 per cent of the population depend for their livelihood, is approaching the 1981-82 season with more modest expectation.

Last year's bumper harvest encountered considerable marketing and transport problems, but it underlined Zimbabwe as the leading agricultural exporter in black Africa and demonstrated vividly to the Government the value of an efficient commercial farming sector.

A perfect growing season saw tobacco again become the country's top foreign currency earner and produced the country's biggest-ever maize harvest. Sales of major crops up to September amounted to Z\$495.8m, more than 70 per cent up on the previous year.

White farmers, who were the most enthusiastic supporters of the Smith Administration and bore its brunt of the guerrilla war, were riding on a wave of prosperity that few would have thought possible under majority rule.

Mr James Sinclair, president of the Commercial Farmers' Union, which represents 4,500 white and 200 black farmers, recently split over the reasons for the evaporation of last season's euphoria.

Drought has affected some of the best land in the country as well as the so-called communal lands of black peasant farmers who contributed 10 per cent to total output last year. This season they are unlikely to produce more than a subsistence crop, while overall production is expected to be reduced by 40 per cent.

The increase in the minimum wage for farm workers from Z\$30 to Z\$50 will, says CFU, have a marked effect on the incentive to grow labour-intensive crops such as tobacco, cotton, tea and coffee — all important exports. There are other implications which are the subject of discussions

AGRICULTURE

Down to earth with a bump



An abundant maize crop, but how much longer will this white farmer own it? Land settlement remains one of the country's thorniest problems.

between the CFU and the

president of the Tobacco Growers Association. The Cotton Growers Association is also worried. In spite of last year's record revenue it says that some commodities will have to go up by 15 per cent just to meet the higher wage bills.

If the negotiations are not successful, the farmers' side says, "The result could be loss of jobs and a loss in production of essential food and cash crops."

Squatting has been less of a problem than was anticipated last year, and most of the areas taken over are land which has been bought by the Government for resettlement, though it has not yet been utilized because of administration rule.

In one recent notable case, a white farmer who has been prevented by squatters from using his land won a court order to have them moved.

Nevertheless, as the agricultural sector looks to the future with a continued sense of optimism, the land issue seems likely to remain a cloud over long-term prospects.

MINING

A period of distress

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put up the mining wage bill in January — is not a first step to nationalizing the industry but is rightful participation in the disposal of a strategic and non-renewable resource. The Government is also clearly concerned that there have been malpractices through transfer pricing and under-invoicing of sister companies outside the country.

In response, the Chamber of Mines says that no instances of malpractices have been cited and that the powers of the new board enable it to "take over the marketing function completely, to control the size of producers' stockpiles and therefore (their) rate of production, to take possession of producers' outputs long before payment (is) made, to negotiate binding contracts for the sale of minerals without incurring any legal liabilities or responsibilities and to hold on to... the industry's revenue for periods of up to 30 days".

Continued from page 1

and there is repeated talk of extending public participation into other as yet undefined areas, and returning wealth to the people".

Some of the rhetoric is plainly intended to appease Zimbabwe's land-hungry peasantry which is growing increasingly impatient at the slow pace of land redistribution. Some 50,000 squatters are reported to have

taken the law into their own hands and set up homes on commercial farmland. Mainly along the eastern border with

Mozambique, much of which was vacated during the war.

This unquestionably will be the central issue over the coming years.

Mr Mugabe knows that if he tries to move too fast in response to popular pressure he risks destroying the productivity of the white farming sector which has made

Zimbabwe almost unique in Black Africa as a country which is able to feed itself and still have a comfortable surplus left over for export. It is one part of the tightrope he is walking as he tries to satisfy the legitimate demands of his people for a better life without destroying the economic efficiency and dynamism he inherited from the previous regime.

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FOCUS

Compiled by Alan Grainge

Businessmen's Brief

The Republic of Zimbabwe became a fully independent state within the Commonwealth on April 18, 1980. Parliamentary elections, with 100 seats divided between African and white members in the ratio of 80:20, resulted in an overall majority for Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Pan African Front) party, Zanu (PF) — which draws its support principally from the majority Shona tribe — with 57 seats.

Mr Joshua Nkomo's mainly Ndebele party, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu), secured 20 seats and the United African National Congress (Uanc), led by the former premier, Bishop Muzorewa, the other three.

The 20 seats allocated to whites were all won by Mr Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front party, since renamed the Republican Front.

Mr Mugabe's administration has been moderate and neither oppressive of the white minority, as some had feared, nor marxist in style, as some pre-independence indications of Zanu (PF) policy had appeared to threaten.

The government has given priority to the need to revive the economy and to repair the damage caused by the years of economic sanctions and of guerrilla warfare. These policies have received substantial financial support from the World Bank and some western countries.

The Economy

Towards the end of 1981 there were signs of a decline in the impressive economic growth established in the 18 months after independence. This was partly due to the pressure on foreign exchange

reserves and the consequent decision in September to impose cuts in import allocations. Another factor was the serious lack of locomotives for freight transport. By mid-1981 only half the 220 required were in service, but the decision, in December, by the South African government to restore the 24 previously on loan and the expected delivery of another 60 from the USA promised to avert a major crisis.

In addition, the possibility of retaining the preferential trading relations with South Africa, which it had been believed were to cease at the beginning of 1982, gives further grounds for an expectation of a return to a higher rate of growth in the economy this year.

Growth in the manufacturing sector continues to be inhibited by the chronic shortage of skilled labour, rural agriculture, particularly the production of maize and tobacco, continued in 1981 the satisfactory growth of 1980.

While inflationary pressure remains high, and economists are forecasting a rate of about 15 per cent for 1982, the government has given clear indications of its readiness to adopt counter measures.

Now that some other uncertainties have also been removed there seem to be genuine possibilities of Zimbabwe returning in 1982 to the kind of economic growth rate achieved in the first year of independence.

Development Plans

At the Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development (Zimcord) in March 1981 more than 70 delegations offered commitments to contribute a total of Z\$1.25 billion in aid over a period of three years. The government has specified

five areas in which the funds will be used: Land settlement and rural development; repair and reconstruction of war damage; resettlement of war refugees and war displaced people; training and re-education of former combatants; and technical cooperation.

To overcome the housing shortage the government has drawn up a Z\$542m five-year plan. This will provide for the construction of 167,000 houses at a cost of Z\$77.15m and a further Z\$30m will be spent on providing about 100,000 houses with electricity.

The high increase in demand for industrial power will be met from two sources: electrical power will be provided by the construction of a 250m thermal power station at Wankie and fuel requirements by the expansion of ethanol production.

Population estimated: 7,500,000 Africans and 200,000 Europeans.

Main cities and towns

Salisbury (Harare) — population 627,000. The capital and commercial, industrial and communications centre of the country.

Bulawayo (363,000) A major centre of commerce and industry with good communications by rail, air and road with the rest of Zimbabwe. Heavy engineering concentration.

Umtali (63,000) Main town on the eastern border with road and rail links with the port of Beira. Principal industries are paper, milling, food processing and vehicle assembly.

Gweru (70,000) Situated in the Midlands, centre of a rich mining area and of growing industrial importance.

Que (51,000) Location of the Risco steelworks which



has attracted a number of industrial and new industries.

Wankie (33,000) Situated in the west, has the only operating coal fields in the country and is the site of a coal-fired power station now in the first phase of construction.

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Banks

Citibank 61 Samora Machel Avenue Salisbury Tel: 793084/793000

RAL Merchant Bank 67 Samora Machel Avenue Salisbury Tel: 703071

Merchant Bank of Central Africa

Livingstone House Samora Machel Avenue Salisbury Tel: 703211

Zimbabwe Banking Corporation, Zimbank House

Speke Avenue Salisbury Tel: 700631 Grindlays Bank 1st Floor Samora Machel Avenue Salisbury Tel: 706351

Bank of Credit and Commerce Zimbabwe 60 Union Avenue Union House Salisbury Tel: 794624

Barclays Bank International Barclays House 19th Avenue/First Street Salisbury Tel: 706301

100 Abercon Street Bulawayo Tel: 71761

The Standard Bank Cnr Manica Road/Orr Street Salisbury Tel: 791771

Cnr 8th Avenue/Fife Street Bulawayo Tel: 63861

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Community Development & World Affairs: Mrs Teurai Ropa Nhongo Agriculture: Mr Dennis Norman Natural Resources & Water Development: Mr Joseph Msika

Coming to terms with independence is proving a hard and tortuous process. Michael Hornsby investigates reactions among the white population and Gillian Gunn assesses the price that former guerrillas are having to pay in adjusting to a life without war

Staying on under black rule

Mr Alfred Knottenbelt, a retired white schoolmaster, is one of those who are "staying on". He fully intends, he says, "to die in Zimbabwe, though not just yet". Few of his white compatriots are ready to make that commitment, even if most of them, much as they grumble and groan, still seem prepared to give life, if not death, a go under black rule.

As a former headmaster of Fletcher High School, Ingwe, for a time one of only two schools in the country offering blacks a sixth-form education, Mr Knottenbelt knows the new rulers as few whites do. Many of them passed through his hands as pupils, and he reminisces about his former charges with genuine pride and affection.

Many of his fellow whites, he believes, "simply cannot come to terms with the fact that for years they have been living in absolute clover at the expense of the greatness of the people, and that a fairer sharing of the spoils is bound to mean some sacrifice by them".

The truth of that judgment, it would seem, is the steady though not yet disastrous drain of whites leaving the country, and the seeping away of valuable managerial, technical and artisan skills that Zimbabwe can ill afford to lose. It is a haemorrhage that, unless staunched, could seriously impede economic recovery and growth. It has already forced the Govern-



Street scene in Zimbabwe: equal now, but miles apart.

ment to go back on a pledge not to employ expatriate skills. As the table accompanying this article shows, the flow is not all one way (indeed Zimbabwe has actually gained more doctors and surgeons than it has lost since independence.) But the drain is serious, given that blacks trained for jobs previously done by whites will not be emerging in any numbers for several years.

The loss of engineering and mechanical skills is particularly worrying. A shortage of white technical staff is now generally admitted to have contributed at least as much as the withdrawal of locomotives on loan from South Africa to the railways' inability to cope with the country's bumper maize crop last year.

After reaching a peak of 275,000 in 1975, the white population fell steadily to

reach about 225,000 (against 7 million blacks) by the signing of the Lancaster House agreement at the end of 1979. On official figures, it is now down to below 150,000 and still falling, as whites go "down south" — to South Africa.

The average outflow in the first 11 months of last year was about 1,700, higher than at any time during the war and sharply up on 1980, despite a limit of about £750 on the foreign currency

emigrants can take out of the country and a rule that any household goods exported

must be at least four years old. In the face of such disincentives to leave, it is puzzling to know what has happened to cause those whites who initially opted to stay to change their minds. Possibly the first overreaction to discovering Mr Mugabe was not the terrorist ogre he had been painted as, but a sense of panic that had been propagated into hoping that there would be no changes at all.

Not that, on the surface, daily life has changed all that much for most whites. It is still the same familiar round of sun, sport and work they have always known. Tele-

vision and the newspapers

will be full of the doings of "Comrade Mugabe", and liberally sprinkled with references to "racist" South Africa, but in a sense one lot of government propaganda has merely replaced another.

Businessmen fuss about the direction of the economy, the inflationary effects of the latest round of minimum wage rises, the freeze on upper-bracket salaries and new regulations which prohibit the dismissal of employees without written permission from a government minister. But few of them are yet ready to give up.

As for the 5,000 white farmers, they are positively thriving after a record crop last year. To be sure, there is

grumbling about squatters, accepted early retirement, moved to the private sector or emigrated.

The 3,000 whites in the old Rhodesian army of less than 15,000 men have dwindled to no more than 1,000 in the new Zimbabwean force of 60,000, composed mainly of former Zulus and Zips.

Guerrillas. But there are still about 300 white officers, and

when Lieutenant-General Peter Walls was sacked last July after falling out with the Prime Minister, another white, Major-General Sandy Maclean, was appointed to succeed him as commander of combined operations.

Free primary schooling and medical care and the racial integration of schools and hospitals have inevitably meant some lowering of standards previously enjoyed by whites. The ratio of teachers to pupils has worsened (the school population having jumped from 850,000 to more than 1,500,000), and there is worry about an "Afrikaner" syllabus.

Wealthy whites, however, can still send their children to expensive private schools with pukka-sounding British names like St George's, Plumtree, Arundel and Peter's.

Politically, most whites now seem resigned to their political irrelevance. Mr Ian Smith and his 20 Republican

(formerly Rhodesian Front) MPs in their "reserved" seats (safe only until 1987) no longer inspire much enthusiasm. But the breakaway Democratic Party (DP) of Mr Andre Holland, a white farmer who advocates cooperation with the Government, inspires even less, and has twice been heavily defeated by the RF in low-poll by-

elections. Government-white relations have not been improved by the detention without trial of 14 whites, among them Mr Wally Stuttaford, the elderly RF MP for Bulawayo. South, who is alleged to have been plotting to overthrow the Government with malcontents among Mr Joshua Nkomo's former guerrillas. No concrete charges have yet been laid against Mr Stuttaford, whose claims to have been tortured by his captors have been supported by medical evidence.

The escape from prison to South Africa with the aid of a white policeman, of an army bond disposal expert arrested on suspicion of spying for Pretoria has also reminded doubts about the loyalty of whites to Zimbabwe.

A measure of the Government's sensitivity was the deportation of a 21-year-old white garage mechanic accused of drawing bears and horns on posters of Mr Mugabe and President

Emmerson Mnangagwa.

No market for guerrilla skills

Any visitor to Zimbabwe eventually notices them: the young black amputees gliding along Salisbury's sidewalks in wheelchairs, the crutches that dot Mugabe's political rallies. They represent the price Zimbabwe paid for independence: 15,000 disabled ex-guerrillas.

Zimbabwe's Department of Social Services has launched an ambitious programme to help such war victims, but the task is massive. Jairus Mutambikwa, Director of Social Services, explains:

"Many who lost limbs in the bush went for months without medical care and the problem of physical repair is huge. The average age is 23, and typically they joined the guerrillas in their early teens. Thus they have few skills and finding a job can be very difficult."

The disabled ex-guerrillas also face emotional and social problems. "Some come well

says Mr Mutambikwa. They have lost a limb, but they feel proud of their contribution. Others see former schoolmates who didn't fight enjoying good jobs and they despair. They say: 'I sacrificed and he's rewarded.'

Both men and women ex-guerrillas furthermore have difficulty relating to the opposite sex. They were caught up in the war at or just before puberty and have no spouse to return to. Disabled men report problems finding wives, but female ex-guerrillas appear to face even greater hurdles. "They often

acquired assertive personalities in the war," says Mrs Rudo Nyamuswa, whose privately funded Tariro Centre

half-way house has helped

mentally disturbed ex-guerrillas adjust to civilian life.

"Many Zimbabwe men find this unattractive."

And both men and women sometimes have difficulty coping with elementary social tasks. "Because of their background they have no experience in operating as individuals in an urban society," said rehabilitation controller Michael Davies

recently in an interview with a London paper. "During the war decisions were made for them and they have no idea how to handle things like

money."

To help the disabled ex-guerrillas the Government is building a National Rehabilitation Centre at Ruwa, 40km outside Salisbury. When completed in 1983 it will care for 400 patients at a time. Already the Ruwa Centre and clinics in Umtali and Beaufort

Canyon are treating 700 ex-guerrillas.

Medical repair of the gruelling cases preoccupied the authorities initially, but now the programme is also providing general rehabilitation.

Vocational training is particularly emphasized. Guerrilla skills no longer find a market in peacetime Zimbabwe, and many ex-combatants have little else to offer.

So far the programme has placed 200 men in mainly industrial jobs. A meeting was held with businessmen recently to appeal for extra consideration for disabled ex-guerrillas, and met with an excellent response.

But women ex-guerrillas have more problems than their male counterparts when it comes to job hunting. "There are limited fields in which they can work," says Mr Mutambikwa. "Generally they are given only secretarial training."

The women then have to compete with experienced secretaries, often unsuccessfully.

In addition to the vocational training ex-combatants are also given help in acquiring civilian-style social skills. Social workers are

solving the day-to-day problems guerrillas did not have to deal with.

But one area has received little official attention — that of emotional maladjustment.

The authorities are oriented towards physical rehabilitation with few resources devoted to psychological problems," says Mrs Nyamuswa.

An American psychiatrist working in Salisbury says ex-combatants actually experienced surprisingly little psychological trauma, and that those who did are hard to treat by Western analysts.

"The culture does not encourage talking about inner feelings," he says.

The rehabilitation programme supervisors nonetheless hope soon to include more emphasis on emotional and mental health.

The Government expects that all Zimbabwean disabled ex-combatants will have finished rehabilitation by 1987.

In the meantime, and indefinitely if necessary, the ex-guerrillas will receive state pensions in proportion to the degree of their disability. The Government will also pay for schooling all the way through university.

Ex-combatants in general

have been found to be above average in intelligence, and some ambitious ones have already enrolled in medical studies.

Working with Zimbabwe for future growth

Turner & Newall's commitment to the growth of Zimbabwe is well known and well proven. A continuous programme of investment in the expansion of existing facilities and the development of new ones is evidence enough of our deep involvement in the fortunes of this vigorous country, and our determination to help improve its people's well-being.

What does Turner & Newall add up to in Zimbabwe?

13,000 employees for a start.

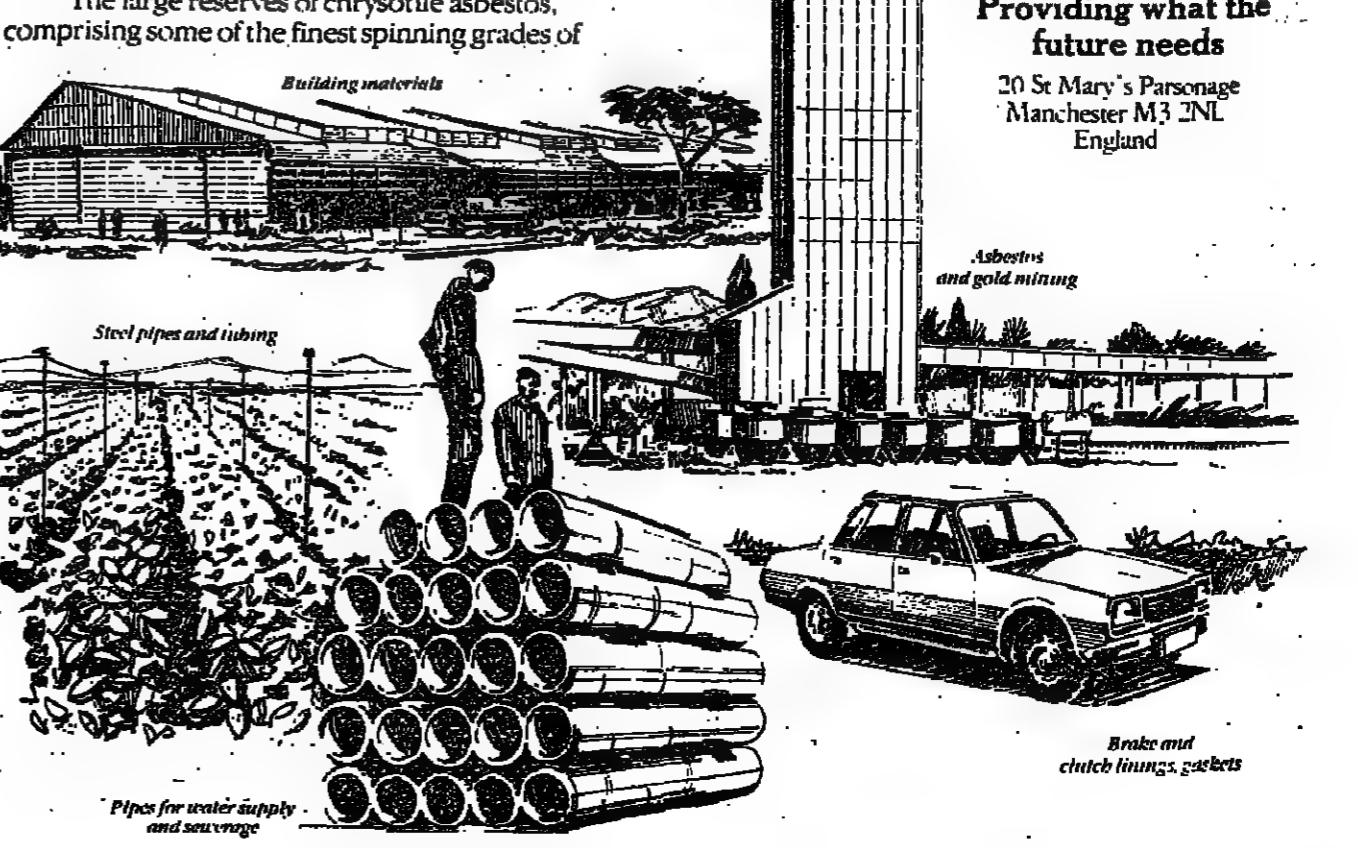
Our two main asbestos mining centres at Shabani and Mashaba, together with our interests in gold mining ventures and consulting facilities covering all aspects of mining.

Our principal manufacturing facilities in Salisbury and Bulawayo.

Our naturally acquired strength through diversification... stemming from our experience in obtaining and processing raw materials as well as producing many manufactured goods.

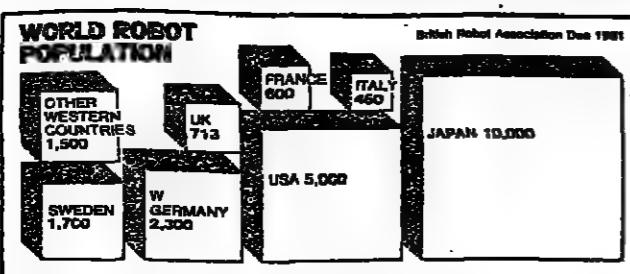
What are our material assets?

The large reserves of chrysotile asbestos, comprising some of the finest spinning grades of



BUSINESS NEWS

Robot population doubled



Britain's industrial robot population almost doubled last year and now stands at 713, according to the British Robot Association's annual census. That gives the United Kingdom fifth place in the world league—ahead of two European rivals, France (600 robots) and Italy (450). Mr Tom Brock, executive secretary of the association, said: "We will be disappointed if we cannot maintain this growth rate of almost 100 per cent for the next two or three years." The number of industrial robots in Britain should pass 2,000 during 1983.

System X export hopes

System X, the British electronic exchange design, has more export potential in the United States and in Europe than in the Third World as previously believed. The conclusion is contained in a report prepared by Communication Studies and Planning of London on the export potential of the British technology. The report recommends to the government to give the System X inventors the £16m required for adapting the export technology provided that satisfactory arrangements are made to market the product in America.

Optimism over Polish debt

West German banking sources are still optimistic that Poland will be able to pay off the interest that it owes as a condition for signing an agreement rescheduling its 1981 commercial bank debt. It is thought the Poles now owe only \$150m (£81m) in interest and they will be able to pay it off by Monday as promised by Bank Handlowy of Warsaw last month.

Pressure mounts for Opec meeting

Pressure intensified yesterday for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries after Iran's second oil price cut in four days. The new official price of Iranian light crude is \$33.55, undercutting the Saudi Arabian bench mark rate by 45 cents. Sheikh Ahmed al Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, who is expected to announce big oil production cuts soon, said an emergency meeting to discuss the erosion of pricing stability was unlikely.

• Two French banks, Crédit Lyonnais and Paribas, have signed an agreement to lend the Soviet Union \$140m for the construction of the Siberia-Western Europe pipeline. • Thor Emi has signed an agreement with ABC Video Stores to distribute films on Enterprises of the United video cassettes in Europe and films throughout the world on video disc worldwide.

MARKET SUMMARY

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 563.2 down 7.5
FT Gilts 64.39 down 0.29
FT All share 324.06 down 3.77
Bargain 19.566

Money supply figures, which were at the high end of expectations in the market, with the FT Index down 7.5 to 563.2 at the close after drifting down throughout the day.

The growth in money supply of 11.1 per cent, compared with market forecasts of 1 per cent, pushed gilts down 5% with losses among leading shares ranging from 2p to 10p.

Among falls, Beecham was 4p down at 238p, Glaxo shed 4p to 470p, Hawker was 10p easier at 325p and Lucas at 21p down 5p.

Building and property group Wood Hall Trust leapt 4p to 205p as brokers Fielding-Nelson-Smith staged a dawn raid on behalf of an unnamed buyer, possibly the Australian Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Group, prepared to pay 200p per share for a 10 per cent stake, which it almost achieved, before the price rose below 200p.

United Scientific jumped 20p to 638p after its annual report, but slipped back to 613p. Favourable trading statements were not enough to support Crest Nicholson.

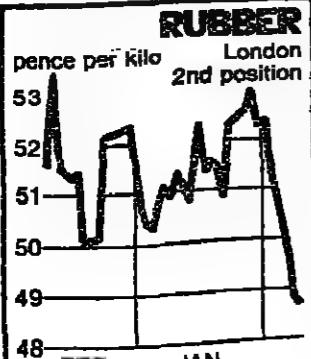
COMMODITIES

OTHER EXCHANGES

Rubber prices weakened again on the London terminal market yesterday, reaching their lowest for the contract. March closed 35p down at 47.55p a kilogramme, and April fell 25p to 48.65p a kilogramme. Spot prices have also been softer. A spokesman for the Rubber Trade Association of London said that RSS One was quoted at 45.465p a kilogramme on Monday, the lowest for four years. The International Rubber Organization buffer stock manager bought March rubber, traders said.

• Tin remained confusing. The cash price fell by 13 a tonne to £8,952, while three months gained £17 to £8,002. Dealers said that £9,000 a tonne is still being offered for the critical delivery dates in the middle of this month.

RUBBER



MONEY MARKETS

• Period rates were slightly firmer. The Bank relieved a shortage of £300m at unchanged rates. Domestic rates: Base rates 14%; 3-month interbank 14%; Euro-currency rates: 3-month dollar 16.1-16.4; 3-month DM 10.1-10.1; 3-month Fr 15.1-15.4.

Carr Sebag sells off Far East interests

By Philip Robinson

One of the biggest stockbroking mergers of recent years, between W I Carr and Joseph Sebag, in 1979 was split apart yesterday when Carr Sebag decided to sell the lucrative Far Eastern business built up by Carr to Exco International, the money brokers.

Carr's problems have highlighted the pressing need for more capital in stockbroking firms. The Stock Exchange is at present involved in a detailed study on how member firms are financed.

Partners of Carr Sebag, which has been the subject of rumours of liquidity problems for almost six weeks, will be paid a total of £4.5m for 75 per cent of W I Carr, Son & Co (Overseas) (Wico).

It is the first time an outsider has bought a broking business from a broker. The Stock Exchange and Exco is paying £3m cash to the partners, who are then entitled to 70 per cent of the pre-tax profits of Wico for the year to March 1982.

Profits last year were £125m and, given the purchase price, the City estimates that this year's profits will exceed £2m. Completion of the deal, which is subject to Exco shareholders' approval is expected on April 1.

But how much of the purchase price goes back into the Carr Sebag business remains to be seen. The £3m is being paid to partners half of whom are Wico and half, Carr Sebag.

Meanwhile Exco, which became a public company less than three months ago, plans to inject a further £500,000 of working capital into Wico and

the Carr Sebag partners.

However, brokers are con-

sidering raising the level at

which outside shareholders can

take share stakes in limited

partnerships from 10 per cent

to 30 per cent.

The Stock Exchange has

never been happy with share-

holders, who have limited

liability owning a large interest

in firms whose partners have

unlimited liability.

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Cheaper electricity plea fails

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

The Electricity Council is not prepared to make any fundamental changes in the way large industrial users are charged for their electricity.

The council's review of the bulk supply tariff for industry was made public yesterday on the orders of Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy. It fails far short of the concessions demanded by the heavy industry, notably steel producers, who have been complaining that they have to pay up to 30 per cent more than some continental competitors.

A spokesman for the Department of Energy said the Government had made the review public so that industrial consumers could make comments before the 1982-83 tariffs were implemented. "We are also discussing the proposals with the electricity supply industry as a matter of urgency," he added.

Mr Bryan Rigby, deputy director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said last night that he had not yet seen the review. However, he added: "It is still open to the Government to extend help to large consumers, but this will clearly have to be achieved by special arrangements rather than changes to the bulk supply tariff."

The review, which was prepared by an Electricity Council

task force in consultation with the Central Electricity Generating Board, considers and rejects some of the more fundamental changes in the bulk supply tariff that have been suggested by industrial groups. For example, a "plant-type" structure, which would give preferential pricing to high load factor supplies, is criticized for being "complex and difficult to formulate".

A system based on short-run marginal costs, rather than the long-run marginal costs of the present tariff, would produce substantial savings for large industrial consumers. But it would cost the electricity supply industry 16 per cent of its revenues and, the review says, "the industry could not countenance planning for such losses, not least in view of the requirement that the CEBG should 'at least break even taking one year with another'."

A report by the National Economic Development Council's energy task force last November showed that, although most industrial users in Britain enjoyed electricity prices broadly comparable

in the general bulk supply

standard and night rates.

The council does not say how much industrial users might save by taking full advantage of the changes, but the figure seems unlikely to be more than 3 or 4 per cent.

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standard and night rates.

But even if private sector lending by other banks was less than buoyant, final figures for the system as a whole are likely to point to an uncomfortable large total increase in the further sizable purchases of commercial bills by the Bank of England. The seasonally adjusted figure for lending to the private sector could, on some estimates, come out at £17.5m.

But the strength of bank lending to the private sector is still making it difficult for the authorities to get the money supply firmly under control.

In the banking month to mid-January Sterling M3, the broad measure of banking money, grew by an estimated 14.1% per cent, according to the Bank of England. It follows a rise of only 0.2 per cent in the short December banking month.

The latest increase seems to have been largely fuelled by a further big increase in private sector credit demand. The London clearing banks estimate that their lending to the private sector over the six-week period showed an underlying rise of £150m.

Market sources in London say the move as an attempt to underpin the record low rates of interest in the market.

Datuk Sri Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian prime minister, said his country would reduce its tin production by 25 per cent and by 50% in 1983.

Malaysia yesterday announced that it would cut its tin production by 25 per cent and by 50% in 1983.

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BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

The big loser and likely winners in Laker collapse

Canny Scots fear worst

Charlotte Square's financial outlook tends toward pessimism compared with the Square Mile: "What is the state of the balance sheet?" is the question Edinburgh financiers ask before applying their own judgment.

In the case of Clydesdale Bank, the Midland Bank subsidiary, and its involvement with Laker, Scottish analysts and institutions fear the worst—a full write-off of an estimated £20m in Laker debts in Midland's group accounts which are due in 1919.

Laker's £9m overdraft came from the Clydesdale. Midland is also involved in the \$13m consortium loan for three Airbuses. Market opinion puts their net stake at around £10m.

There is also the question of the £5m bond Clydesdale made available last October to cover the cost of ferrying stranded passengers to their destinations.

More sanguine estimates are that the loss provision will be far less than £20m, and that the London market is not too worried over Midland's heavy involvement with Laker. The issue is how much of



Sir David Barron: £20m write-off feared

the commitment to Laker will have to be written off.

The sensible view seems to be to assume the worst and expect a full write-off. The difficulty may be that in between Laker's request last autumn for re-scheduling of its debts and the start of the final crisis, an unpredictable number of things went wrong.

Midland reportedly has a floating charge on the Laker assets. The questions the City is asking is

whether Steaua plans to use the money to buy overriding royalties from prospects in the United States. Hunting intends to buy our minority interests in directional drilling and mud service subsidiaries.

Directional drilling involves targets at an angle from the drilling platform. Muds are the lubricants in drill holes. Hunting is extensively involved in the North Sea, and in other offshore oilfields such as the Gulf and the southern United States.

In support of its rights issue, Hunting forecasts pre-tax profits for 1981 at £7.1m compared with £4.1m in 1980. The board also says that the final dividend will be 7.5p gross, bringing the year's payout to 10.75p gross, an increase of 15.4 per cent.

Robert Fleming, the mer-

chant bank, is acting for Hunting. The interests to be acquired are 49 per cent of each of Hunting Drilling Fluids and Equipment, Hunting Drilling NV, and International Mud Services. Hunting Drilltech, a wholly owned subsidiary, will also take 49 per cent of the partnership Hunting Briltech and Hunting DF & E.

Steaua, which is traded under rule 163 (3) of the Stock Exchange, will buy from two consulting geologists to May Petroleum, a Houston company, overriding royalties to 60 oil and gas prospects along the Rocky Mountain Overthrust Belt and in the Pacific North West. No further funds will be required to take part in the royalties from the properties on which overriding royalties would have been payable.

AARONSON

Profits plunge

The price of maintaining its market share has proved a costly venture for Aaronson Bros, the plastics laminates group, where pretax profits for the full year to September 30 plunged from £1.9m to £543,000.

The company continues to blame fierce competition from its main European rivals which have been able to dump their stock at greatly reduced prices while benefiting from the high level of sterling. Profits at the half-year stage from £1.4m to £444,000.

Costs have continued to rise, increasing pressure on already eroded margins and forcing up the level of borrowings.

where exactly this puts it in the pecking order for repayment, and how much can be realized?

Estimates of Midland's year end figures vary greatly. Poor fourth quarter results at Crocker, the Midland's United States subsidiary as a result of exceptional bad debt provisions point to a fall in pretax profits from £231.8m to £219m, according to brokers James Cope.

Wood Mackenzie on the other hand sees a modest increase to £240m, and Hoare Govett goes for

£230m, while the City is asking is

whether the Laker experience has not helped. Apart from the occasional spectacular disaster, the sector is also subject to the up and down of consumer spending power, and the strength or weakness of sterling. These cyclical disadvantages have left the sector on a relatively low p/e.

Horizon Travel is a solid company which many regard as the best in the sector. Carr Sebag is predicting a £1.25m for the year ended last November, which will put Horizon at a p/e of 5.4 on an

average sector, and the Laker experience has not helped. Apart from the occasional spectacular disaster, the sector is also subject to the up and down of consumer spending power, and the strength or weakness of sterling. These cyclical disadvantages have left the sector on a relatively low p/e.

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RIGHTS ISSUES

Oil men hunt for extra cash

Hunting Petroleum Services and Steaua Romana (British), both in the energy business, came to the market yesterday for extra cash. Hunting is seeking an additional £12.5m, while Steaua wants £1.5m.

Three new ordinary shares of 25p and 57 convertible stock for every 10 ordinary or deferred shares already held are offered by Hunting. Steaua's terms are one new ordinary share for every two ordinary held or every 10 deferred shares.

Robert Fleming, the mer-

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

of

Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL

(Italian National Electric Energy Agency)

7½ Per Cent. 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970

Due March 1, 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, on behalf of Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL, that on March 1, 1982, \$3,000,000 principal amount of its 7½ Per Cent. 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970 will be redeemed out of moneys to be paid by it to Dillon, Read & Co. Inc., as Principal Paying Agent, pursuant to the mandatory annual redemption requirement of said Bonds and to the related Authenticating Agency Agreement and Paying Agency Agreement, each dated as of March 1, 1970. The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Authenticating Agent, has selected, by lot, for such redemption the Bonds bearing the following serial numbers:

BONDS SELECTED FOR REDEMPTION

1 1112 2187 3165 4165 5174 6185 7195 8195 9195 10195 11195 12195 13195 14195 15195 16195 17195 18195 19195 20195 21195 22195 23195 24195 25195 26195 27195 28195 29195 30195 31195 32195 33195 34195 35195 36195 37195 38195 39195 40195 41195 42195 43195 44195 45195 46195 47195 48195 49195 50195 51195 52195 53195 54195 55195 56195 57195 58195 59195 60195 61195 62195 63195 64195 65195 66195 67195 68195 69195 70195 71195 72195 73195 74195 75195 76195 77195 78195 79195 80195 81195 82195 83195 84195 85195 86195 87195 88195 89195 90195 91195 92195 93195 94195 95195 96195 97195 98195 99195 100195 101195 102195 103195 104195 105195 106195 107195 108195 109195 110195 111195 112195 113195 114195 115195 116195 117195 118195 119195 120195 121195 122195 123195 124195 125195 126195 127195 128195 129195 130195 131195 132195 133195 134195 135195 136195 137195 138195 139195 140195 141195 142195 143195 144195 145195 146195 147195 148195 149195 150195 151195 152195 153195 154195 155195 156195 157195 158195 159195 160195 161195 162195 163195 164195 165195 166195 167195 168195 169195 170195 171195 172195 173195 174195 175195 176195 177195 178195 179195 180195 181195 182195 183195 184195 185195 186195 187195 188195 189195 190195 191195 192195 193195 194195 195195 196195 197195 198195 199195 200195 201195 202195 203195 204195 205195 206195 207195 208195 209195 210195 211195 212195 213195 214195 215195 216195 217195 218195 219195 220195 221195 222195 223195 224195 225195 226195 227195 228195 229195 230195 231195 232195 233195 234195 235195 236195 237195 238195 239195 240195 241195 242195 243195 244195 245195 246195 247195 248195 249195 250195 251195 252195 253195 254195 255195 256195 257195 258195 259195 260195 261195 262195 263195 264195 265195 266195 267195 268195 269195 270195 271195 272195 273195 274195 275195 276195 277195 278195 279195 280195 281195 282195 283195 284195 285195 286195 287195 288195 289195 290195 291195 292195 293195 294195 295195 296195 297195 298195 299195 200195 201195 202195 203195 204195 205195 206195 207195 208195 209195 210195 211195 212195 213195 214195 215195 216195 217195 218195 219195 220195 221195 222195 223195 224195 225195 226195 227195 228195 229195 230195 231195 232195 233195 234195 235195 236195 237195 238195 239195 240195 241195 242195 243195 244195 245195 246195 247195 248195 249195 250195 251195 252195 253195 254195 255195 256195 257195 258195 259195 260195 261195 262195 263195 264195 265195 266195 267195 268195 269195 270195 271195 272195 273195 274195 275195 276195 277195 278195 279195 280195 281195 282195 283195 284195 285195 286195 287195 288195 289195 290195 291195 292195 293195 294195 295195 296195 297195 298195 299195 200195 201195 202195 203195 204195 205195 206195 207195 208195 209195 210195 211195 212195 213195 214195 215195 216195 217195 218195 219195 220195 221195 222195 223195 224195 225195 226195 227195 228195 229195 230195 231195 232195 233195 234195 235195 236195 237195 238195 239195 240195 241195 242195 243195 244195 245195 246195 247195 248195 249195 250195 251195 252195 253195 254195 255195 256195 257195 258195 259195 260195 261195 262195 263195 264195 265195 266195 267195 268195 269195 270195 271195 272195 273195 274195 275195 276195 277195 278195 279195 280195 281195 282195 283195 284195 285195 286195 287195 288195 289195 290195 291195 292195 293195 294195 295195 296195 297195 298195 299195 200195 201195 202195 203195 204195 205195 206195 207195 208195 209195 210195 211195 212195 213195 214195 215195 216195 217195 218195 219195 220195 221195 222195 223195 224195 225195 226195 227195 228195 229195 230195 231195 232195 233195 234195 235195 236195 237195 238195 239195 240195 241195 242195 243195 244195 245195 246195 247195 248195 249195 250195 251195 252195 253195 254195 255195 256195 257195 258195 259195 260195 261195 262195 263195 264195 265195 266195 267195 268195 269195 270195 271195 272195 273195 274195 275195 276195 277195 278195 279195 280195 281195 282195 283195 284195 285195 286195 287195 288195 289195 290195 291195 292195 293195 294195 295195 296195 297195 298195 299195 200195 201195 202195 203195 204195 205195 206195 207195 208195 209195 210195 211195 212195 213195 214195 215195 216195 217195 218195 219195 220195 221195 222195 223195 224195 225195 226195 227195 228195 229195 230195 231195 232195 233195 234195 235195 236195 237195 238195 239195 240195 241195 242195 243195 244195 245195 246195 247195 248195 249195 250195 251195 252195 253195 254195 255195 256195 257195 258195 259195 260195 261195 262195 263195 264195 265195 266195 267195 268195 269195 270195 271195 272195 273195 274195 275195 276195 277195 278195 279195 280195 281195 282195 283195 284195 285195 286195 287195 288195 289195 290195 291195 292195 293195

PEOPLE

Prudential window dressing

A sky overcast; no glare; visibility of the sun's glint; so why was I less than spellbound at the unveiling yesterday of the Prudential's new shop window in the City?

For at its Lime Street branch, hard by the Lloyd's insurance market and the Baltic shipping exchange, the Pru yesterday became the first United Kingdom subscriber to Reuter's financial news service as exhibited on an electronic blackboard. An old Pru hand said: "At least we decided what to do with that display when it was overburdened with shoulders. Another thought the display a change from potted palms and posters advertising sports."

We guests trooped outside and watched dim electronic words pass sedately in front of us from right to left as if it was Arabic. Slowly we deciphered information about gold napoleons. The Reuters man looked at me doubtfully. "Perhaps we should cross the road. We should read it better there. We did. The electronic words became invisible."

The Reuters man came to a decision. Perhaps we had better take off the grill, he said. At this point I left. It took a minute for the FT Index to come up on the visual display, but perhaps it was better than sport for which, alas, I have a blind spot.

This Sugar is good for you



Alan Sugar — sweet talk

A haughty spirit goes before a fall, the Book says, and if John Bloom of Rolls-Razor and Sir Freddie Laker had a failing in common it was the over confidence that depends on other people's money.

Alan Sugar, 34, is the man, in City eyes at least, who is Amstrad Consumer Electronics, the hi-fi and car entertainment group which has so far not put a foot wrong.

Who can quibble with doubled profits and a dividend up a fifth? What shareholder will sniff at shares worth three times more than when they were offered for sale less than two years ago?

Sugar tells me: "The two men you mention made one mistake — they borrowed money. I do not owe a penny to anyone. Indeed my company has a lot of cash in the bank". "How," I asked, "do you plan to keep an eye on everything as your group grows bigger?" He replied: "I have a good team."

This businessman has the canniness of one much older. He has, however, to make his first mistake. But it is something that he has not sold a single share, and possibly more that his profits do not lean overmuch on CB Radio. "People got over excited when it came in," he tells me.

"Now they're falling for a lot of nonsense about a big sleep. It is simply steady business."

How I wish he knew who would succeed him if he fell under a bus.



"Your father's in a frightful mood this morning. They've left his name out of the Rolls advert again."

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr J. H. Carter, Mr R. A. Davis, Mr J. E. Reynolds and Mr F. E. Thorne have been appointed directors of C. T. Bowring Reassurance.

Mr Alan Beswick has been appointed director of purchasing of Unipart.

Mr R. H. K. Seelby, a director of Morgan Grenfell, has been appointed to the board of Morgan Grenfell Incorporated, the wholly-owned American subsidiary company of Morgan Grenfell.

Mr J. R. Fairbrother and Mr G. A. Maclean have been appointed as directors and Mr J. E. Heskett a manager of Baring Brothers.

BL's truck division may be running out of road

Today the BL board meets to thrash out the future of its strike bound trucks division. BL says the subsidiary will have little chance of survival without 4,000 redundancies. Edward Townsend reports.

Once again, just as it seemed as if the millstone of British Leyland was slowly being lifted from the shoulders, overburdened by shoulders, another deepening crisis is threatening the state-owned enterprise.

The Leyland Group, the company's truck and bus section, which traditionally has been more stable than the volatile cars operation, has been paralysed by strike action for nearly three weeks, and with no sign of a settlement, BL has begun to deliver the dire warnings that workers throughout the company have heard all to often before.

Without the 4,100 redundancies and restructuring — the cause of the present dispute — the trucks business has little chance of survival, BL says. The stoppage is said to be threatening the whole future of BL truck-making while overseas customers "must be asking why a proud company with such long traditions can commit hara-kiri".

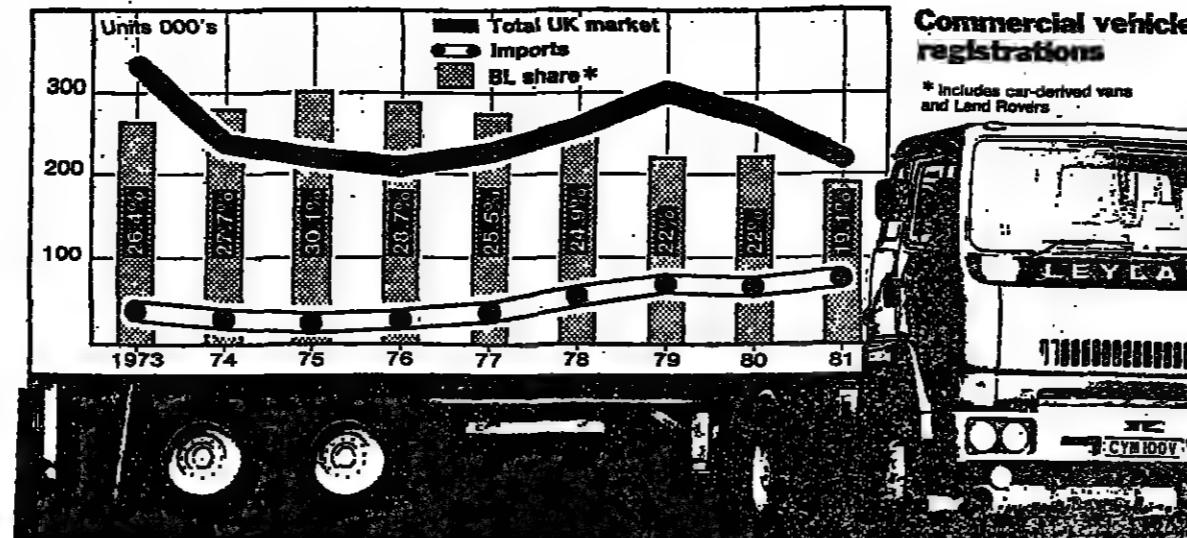
Today, the BL board meets for the first time since the Leyland crisis erupted and may have to make some harsh decisions about the future size of Leyland and the current extensive model replacement programme.

This was the cloud that hung over Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, when he faced more than two hours of Select Committee grilling in the House of Commons recently. He was able to tell MPs that at last things were looking up, and a trading profit for 1981 was on the cards, but that the trucks business presented the greatest uncertainty.

It has since become clear that the BL board foresaw at the end of last year that unless some major surgery was performed on Leyland — its losses have continued this year at a rate of £2m a week — the government was likely to re-think its £90m, two-year funding of the BL survival plan.

The bombshell was dropped by Mr David Andrews, BL executive deputy chairman last November. At the Leyland assembly plant, Lancashire, 1,855 jobs were to go, a further 1,350 redundancies at Bathgate, West Lothian, which is to become the company's primary engine facility, 750 at Guy Motors in Wolverhampton which is to be closed 120 at Albion Motors in Glasgow, and a further 25 administrative posts.

With almost 19 per cent of the Leyland Group workforce to be sacked, feelings understandably are running high and heels are being dug in. Only 100 of the Leyland



strikers voted at their last mass meeting against continuing the stoppage and discussions between management and union officials ended in deadlock last week. Formal talks are not to be resumed until next Monday. Leyland workers, proud of their truck-making traditions, want new investment, expansion and scrapping of the redundancy plans.

The stalemate could well force the company into a more savage pruning operation. The fear among workers is that BL, which has little, if any, money to spare to finance a prolonged shutdown of trucks output, may close factories and turn the business into a mere assembly operation for other firms' components, a move which some claim was BL's intention from the start.

Clear warnings of hard times ahead for the truck workers were contained in BL's review of its 1981 performance presented to the Government in December. The greatest problems and worst results lay in the Leyland group, it said, and "massive cost reductions" were necessary for viability.

The revised 1982 plan for trucks, which is now in jeopardy, called for restructuring and redundancies but also stressed BL's intention to manufacture a full range of lorries — from vans to heavy articulated vehicles — in a bid to retain the vital support of the group's UK dealers and the confidence of commercial fleet buyers.

It added that future market demand and sales volumes would be much lower than previously forecast "and the business is too complex and the fixed cost structure too expensive for the resources (management, technical, capital) which the lower scale of business could support".

Even with streamlining, the current dispute probably has quashed any hope that the Leyland group would break even this year. And the cuts could prove to be insufficient if the home market for heavy trucks over 3.5 tons gross weight, on which the company is largely dependent, falls significantly

below last year's dismal sales figure of 44,950.

The reorganisation plan, devised by Mr Andrews and Mr Ron Hancock, Leyland managing director, is based on the weeding out of the less efficient production operations and a greater reliance on collaboration deals with other companies.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Further falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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Rugby Union: England captain's enforced decision to quit stuns colleagues

Beaumont retires to avoid risk of serious injury

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The rugby world was stunned yesterday by the news that Bill Beaumont had played his last game, although it had been half-expect by those closest to the English camp. It could not be stated in from the every tributes coming in from every quarter to a man who had been a special place in the affection of his players, their supporters and a wider public to whom this respected character has become so familiar and popular a figure.

England's captain made his decision after a leading neurologist had given him an exhaustive, five-hour examination and then declared that if he suffered another kick to the same spot on his head as that which he received in the county final 10 days ago, it could result in serious damage.

"Basically", Beaumont said, "I was passed 100 per cent fit, with just a few signs of wear and tear. That tied in with the medical verdict after I'd had a similar injury in France last summer, when I was told that I had the neck of a 40-year-old. But now, I was given advice to quit the game at once. Another crack in the same place might never happen, but when you are an international, there's an obvious risk."

That Beaumont has taken the only possible decision no one in his right mind will dispute. Of all the tributes paid to him yesterday, no one has encapsulated the general feeling better than his forceful Lancashire president, John Burgess, who said: "I feel quite emotional. Bill Beaumont as a man and a player, in that order, is the best thing to have happened to rugby in my county and England for as long as I can remember. This is a very sad day, but the most important thing is his health and family. Thank goodness he has made the decision now".

Beaumont himself is thankful that the decision could be made without undue delay, and bows out with the consolation of having done almost everything a player hopes to achieve when he sets out on a rugby

career. "I've made some lifelong friends, which is one of the joys of the game".

Aged 29, he won the first of his 34 caps (the last 33 of them in 1979) against Ireland in 1975, and his wife, Linda, member his heroic performance in Brisbane, when he got his second, against Australia, later that year. Having retired with an extremely nasty head wound requiring many stitches, he came back, swathed in bandages, to take Mike Burton's place at tight head prop. One knew then, that this was a very special man from Fylde.

Beaumont first played for his beloved Lancashire in 1973; flew out in 1977 as a most successful replacement for the Lions, to play in the last three internationals against New Zealand; inspired the North to a famous victory over the All Blacks at Otley in 1979, and in 1980, captained the Lions in South Africa in the same year; led England for the 21st time, comfortably a record, when playing his last international, against Scotland in January, and, finally, played all but half the game when Lancashire beat North Midlands in the final at Moseley the other day.

In the New Year's honours list he was awarded to universal pleasure, the OBE for services to rugby. There is not much doubt, given fitness and retention of form, that come the summer of 1983, he would have been the first man to captain two Lions sides.

He asserts, and nobody will disbelieve him, that he wants to get back into things and "give a little bit to help the game that has given him so much". His influence whether as coach, selector, administrator or high slickadoo (and who can doubt that one day William Blackledge Beaumont will be president of the RFU?) will be down to earth, perceptive, inspiring and wholly beneficial.

Beaumont has been a quite outstanding, fearless lock forward whose consistency of commitment and performance never wavered, and a magnificent leader of men who would have gone through hell and back to be a damned good all-round player."

He attributes his success to a coach, who gave him the right advice, and a team, which had the right attitude to rugby, and the way he played it in the hardest and yet the most chivalrous fashion. It was a shining advertisement for all that is best in a great game.

A man of the most genuine modesty, he always gave credit to others. I do not think he has an enemy in the world, only a legion of admirers. With that lived-in face, that unfailingly buoyant good humour—and that flat cap worn when an unwilling spectator at Twickenham last Saturday—he has been a charismatic, lovable character whose impact on the wider public has been greater than any since Gareth Edwards retired.

■ Steve Bainbridge, the Goforth and Northumberland lock, will win his first cap as Beaumont's replacement for England against France in Paris on Saturday week. Steve Smith continues as captain, the Press Association reports.

Phil Blakeway, the Gloucester prop said: "I have had my share of neck troubles over the years and you take medical advice without argument, as Bill has done. I was lucky enough to get the OK. Bill has been unlucky and rugby has lost a great player and a great man."

From Corio, the former Sale prop, played with Beaumont for the British Lions and in 18 England internationals, Exchange Telegraph reports. "It is not just a sad loss for English rugby, but for the game worldwide," Cotton said.

Steve Smith, the current England captain, said: "I spoke to Bill just before he went for the tests yesterday and there was no thought in his mind of having to call it a day. He thought he was just going to get a second opinion. He is probably the last of the nice guys—a totally honest man. He was just the same whether he was leading England out or speaking to a bunch of schoolkids."

Andy Irvine, Scotland's captain, described Beaumont as "The best captain I have ever played under. He was as brave as they come and was a damned good all-round player."



Packing up his troubles: Beaumont put on a cheerful face yesterday at the Chorley textile firm where he is a director.

French make wholesale team changes

By David Hands

It is one of life's ironies that no more than four years ago (and, in some cases, not so long ago as that) the French (and, in England, too) were spoken of somewhat disparagingly as the second division sides in the international championship. But the immediate focus of the current championship is in Dublin on February 20 and Scotland will attempt to prevent Ireland from winning their first triple crown in 35 years.

Yesterday Scotland announced a XV unchanged from that which drew 3-3 with England last month, to meet the Irish at Lansdowne Road. The Irish hope to end their 10-year wait but which will be a difficult task, given the way the French have been playing.

Alain Gauvin, the French coach, has been replaced by Daniel Brocroux, aged 27, from Agen who played in the second international against Scotland in 1980. He is still only 21 and Brocroux will aim to improve his rugby education.

Brocroux has been asked to replace the French coach, Jean-Pierre Cremaschi, who has been suspended for the game against Scotland this weekend. The French have been playing well against England and the collision with the Irish pack will be an occasion for Brocroux to make his mark. The French backs have not yet revealed their full potential but may have that opportunity in Dublin.

It all that seems decently predictable, to win the expectation that France would come in with something a bit different after their disappointing showing against Wales last Saturday. Quite rightly, the black spot has been placed on the forwards and a wholesale change for the game against England in Paris on February 20 has left only Rives the captain, and Dimitrius in the positions they occupied in Cardiff.

The most distinguished casualty occurs in the back row where Jean-Luc Joine (Brive) returns. He will play No 8 with Rives and Jean-Claude Baudet (Brive). Cap Eric Bucher on the other, Bucher (Nîmes) must have created a good impression in the 44-4 defeat of Scotland on Sunday when he scored two tries.

Yesterday Scotland announced a XV unchanged from that which drew 3-3 with England last month, to meet the Irish at Lansdowne Road. The Irish hope to end their 10-year wait but which will be a difficult task, given the way the French have been playing.

Alain Gauvin, the French coach, has been replaced by Daniel Brocroux, aged 27, from Agen who played in the second international against Scotland in 1980. He is still only 21 and Brocroux will aim to improve his rugby education.

Brocroux has been asked to replace the French coach, Jean-Pierre Cremaschi, who has been suspended for the game against Scotland this weekend. The French backs have not yet revealed their full potential but may have that opportunity in Dublin.

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Ice skating

Championships go on in spite of threat

Copenhagen, Feb 9.—Whether or not there will be television coverage of the 1982 World Figure Skating Championships, due to open in a few days, remains to be seen. Finn Olsen, however, chairman of the organizing Danish Skating Union, would like to have even if a wage dispute involving Danish television technicians prevents TV coverage.

At the same time, talks continued between Denmark's publicly controlled television monopoly and its technicians' unions in an effort to prevent a threatened lockout that could affect the broadcast of electronic media from March 1.

If that happens, said Mr Olsen, the DSU and the International Skating Union stand to lose \$200,000 in television rights and the ISU, which has been greater than \$100,000 since Gareth Edwards retired.

■ Steve Bainbridge, the Goforth and Northumberland lock, will win his first cap as Beaumont's replacement for England against France in Paris on Saturday week. Steve Smith continues as captain, the Press Association reports.

Phil Blakeway, the Gloucester prop said: "I have had my share of neck troubles over the years and you take medical advice without argument, as Bill has done. I was lucky enough to get the OK. Bill has been unlucky and rugby has lost a great player and a great man."

From Corio, the former Sale prop, played with Beaumont for the British Lions and in 18 England internationals, Exchange Telegraph reports. "It is not just a sad loss for English rugby, but for the game worldwide," Cotton said.

Steve Smith, the current England captain, said: "I spoke to Bill just before he went for the tests yesterday and there was no thought in his mind of having to call it a day. He thought he was just going to get a second opinion. He is probably the last of the nice guys—a totally honest man. He was just the same whether he was leading England out or speaking to a bunch of schoolkids."

Andy Irvine, Scotland's captain, described Beaumont as "The best captain I have ever played under. He was as brave as they come and was a damned good all-round player."

Radio Denmark, which was to televise the event for networks in Europe, North America and Japan, has threatened to lock out more than 150 skaters from March 9 to 14. The dispute is just one more headache for sports organizers trying to establish Denmark as a suitable venue for international events.

Organizers of this country's first Grand Prix tennis tournament are under pressure to cancel the \$170,000 Danish Indoor Championships, because Kjeld Olsen, the Foreign Minister, has blocked foreign visas for South African players.

But both the International Tennis Federation and the players' Association of Tennis Professionals agreed to give the tournament time to try to convince the government that professional tennis players represent themselves and not countries.

Representatives of the Men's International Professional Tennis Association said they were proceeding as planned.

"The decision whether to go ahead with the championships is up to the DSU's alone," Mr Olsen said. "I'm optimistic and we're proceeding as planned."

Student rugby

Cup final looks like being the same again

The British Polytechnics' Cup, sponsored by Rugby World Cup, reaches the semi-final stage today with every chance of last year's finalists emerging once again. Wales, the holders, meet North Staffordshire in the surprise package of the season, at the West Hills Ground, Redditch, Birmingham (2.30).

Durham beat Manchester 12-7 at the same stage of the competition last season. Simon Henderson, the Rosslyn Park and the full back, Yannick Jauvin, and Gostling, the centre, but they are without their injured captain Evans.

In the other match, Bristol field five forwards who have appeared in the British Polytechnics' representative side and are led by Miles, a prop.

Neither of the remaining semi-finalists should be discounted, though both North Staffordshire and Leeds have recently benefited from amalgamation with leading physical education colleges, the former with Middlesbrough College and the latter with Carnegie College.

Durham rely on a prop from Paris

By Our Sports Staff

Durham and Exeter universities are favourites to qualify for the finals of the UAL championship from today's semi-finals. Durham meet Manchester (2.15) at York University and Exeter take on Leicester. The surprise package of the season, at the West Hills Ground, Redditch, Birmingham (2.30).

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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

This table is published on Wednesday and Saturday

1981/82	1982/83	1981/82	1982/83	1981/82	1982/83	1981/82	1982/83	1981/82	1982/83	1981/82	1982/83
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